



Chairs
to capture
culture

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Find peace
in Shaanxi
reserves

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Tibet ready to welcome tourists

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Traditional culture for kids



Xinhua Photo

By Jackie Zhang
The 1st Zhengzhou Yanhuang Cultural Week, an event to promote traditional culture, began Wednesday in Henan Province. Children recited classical passages at the opening ceremony, held in Yanhuang Plaza, a famous scenic site along the Yellow River.



Photo by Tom Yuan

Squads ready to cheer

By Zhang Dongya

The final 418 cheerleaders for the Beijing Olympic Games were selected Wednesday. Their costumes and mascot Dongdong were revealed the Thursday.

The cheerleader costumes are red and yellow to symbolize a passionate greeting and congratulate victors of this year's Olympiad. Dongdong, the mascot for Beijing's Olympic and Paralympic Games, is a lion-inspired cartoon team member.

Organizers will ensure each Olympic venue has a cheer squad. Some squads will be mobile and not assigned to any one venue.

Members of the cheer squad will cheer for the athletes from all over the world during the Games.

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Fair-goers
forced home
for paperwork

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suspect in
hooker's murder

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but who's to
blame?

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Sanlitun
dealers

Performance market open to foreign capital

By Zhang Dongya

Foreign capital will be moderately introduced into the domestic performance market, officials from the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) and Ministry of Culture said Tuesday.

Officials from both departments said the domestic performance market will

open moderately. Foreign management ideas and systems will be introduced to enhance the competition power of the domestic performance industry.

Joint ventures and co-ops can be approved to establish performance agencies and venues, but the venture must be Chinese-controlled, and the

Chinese side must occupy the leading position, officials said.

Chinese control is necessary to handle risks in performance markets with foreign capital, Li Danyang, vice general manager of Beijing Gehua Culture Development Group, said.

Regulations on the performance market enacted by nine departments, including NDRC

and the Ministry of Culture, took effect this January.

According to regulations, governors may not use public funds for commercial acts, and well controlled in scale and size.

Governors are required to make full use of present venues and establish a group of performance venues for the public.

New surveillance to ensure speedy recalls

By Li Fenghua

The National Bureau of Drug Surveillance will set up a nationwide supervision network that will track all medicines and chemical reagents, Yan Jiangying, spokesman of the National Bureau of Drug Surveillance, said Tuesday.

The electronic identification of each drug will allow customers to do a real time check on the medicine's details, including its ingredients and date of production.

Medicines and chemical reagents will be supervised in batches by the bureau. Its online drug catalog, which lists all approved drugs, is already available, Yan said. The catalog will be merged with the drug surveillance system, he said.

The first batch in this year's catalog includes blood-related products, vaccines, injectables and mind-altering chemicals.

Drugs indexed in the catalog must affix a surveillance sign on packaging. All tagged medicines and chemical reagents will enter the market after October 31.

The drug surveillance network covers all drug surveillance systems around the country. The entire process of the drug production, from the production and distribution to transportation and storage will be supervised by the system. It will ensure a speedy recall if any drug batches are found to have problems, Yan said.

Customers can obtain drug names, specifications, the manufacturer and expiration date from the system by searching online or sending an SMS message to 95001158 or 114.

Tianjin's FTZ finally approved

By Zhang Dongya

The approval of the Tianjin Binhai New Area Comprehensive Free Trade Zone (FTZ), recently issued by the State Council, was considered an important step in the development and opening of the area.

The new FTZ, located in the Tianjin Airport Industrial Park, is a special area with the highest degree of openness.

According to a reply issued by the State Council, the FTZ will operate in an enclosed way and enjoy the same function and policies of tariffs and foreign exchanges with the bonded harbor area, which is considered the Chinese equivalent of a Free Trade Area. Tianjin Dongjiang Bonded Harbor Area, the representative of the bonded harbor area and China's largest free trade harbor, entered commercial operations in December.

The Tianjin port's free trade zone reported economic growth of about 47 percent last year, and currently has 2,000 registered trade companies and 300 logistics firms. The zone's gross domestic product (GDP) reached a record high of 30 billion yuan (US \$4 billion) last year, and aims for a 12 billion yuan increase.

There are 15 FTZs along the southeast coast that enjoy a number of preferential policies in tariffs and investment opportunities.

The Tianjin government made the proposal in 1994. The central government only recently approved it as the nation's third regional economy facilitator, after the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone and Pudong New District in Shanghai.

The government has pinned high hopes on the Binhai New Area, expecting it to help Tianjin grow into an economic powerhouse and North China's shipping hub.

Inspectors first on line 10



By Li Fenghua

The new line No. 10 of the Beijing subway system welcomed its first passengers Wednesday: inspectors from the Beijing Disabled Persons' Federation.

The group was charged with finding faults in the station's

access for disabled people. The inspectors suggested setting up a lower ticketing window and adding elevators for wheelchair users.

Rubber spacers will be used to bridge the gap between the subway cars and the platform,

a subway construction company worker said.

The new line has 22 stops, and is considered a branch subway line for the Olympic Games. The first phase of the line will enter service in June.

Photo by Tiger Wei

Canton Fair certificates cause headache for participants

By Jackie Zhang

The 103rd China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair) is scheduled for next Tuesday in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province. Early this month, the organizing committee of the fair released its emergency notice, which said all participants must have police clearance certificates to register.

The certification has been a headache for most participants.

The certificates must be issued by the police station nearest the participant's registered permanent residence. Deputies of foreign companies must produce a special invitation from the committee.

However, overseas purchasers are required only to provide a valid identity certificate. Fair participants are prohibited from bringing a private translator and are required to ask for the orga-

nizing committee's translation center's help.

The organizing committee convened on April 1 and released a notice of the requirements the next day. *Nanfang City News* reported that the service center staff and security office said the requirements were to guarantee fair safety.

But the new rule means trouble for many participants. Most of the participants lack time to return to their registered permanent residence for a certificate.

Jerry Xu (pseudonym), a marketing manager for a high-tech company, said this is the third time he headed the company's group at the Canton Fair. When all relative materials were provided by the organizing committee and they prepared to register for participants' cards, the notice was released.

Xu's company is in Shen-

zhen, Guangdong Province, but his hometown is in Shanxi Province. The requirements compel him to return to Shanxi for the clearance certificate. It will take at least one week to obtain the certificate. "Our company attaches great importance to the fair. Our manager said we must get the certificates no matter how much money we spend," Xu said.

But the deadline for card registration was Wednesday.

Xu heard about the notice on April 3 and needed three days to prepare their booth. There was no time for him to return to his hometown. "This is the first time the Canton Fair has such a requirement," Xu said.

Working staff in the security department said that when people needed to go abroad, start work in a new company or be promoted to a higher position, they needed a clearance certificates.

Brief news

Lighters banned in flight

Airplane passengers will not be allowed to take lighters or matches on planes after the latest step taken by top aviation authorities to ensure security four months ahead of the Olympics.

Railway steps up security

Both people who purchase tickets and who meet people in the Beijing railway station must pass through a security point starting Tuesday. All baggage and handbags must be checked through the new machines. Lighters, hairspray and controlled cutters are not allowed.

Karaoke not safe from IPR

Two karaoke bars were told Monday to cease copyright infringement on a number of songs in their databases or face severe punishment. It was the first time a local copyright administration took action to stop copyright infringement in karaoke bars. The move is considered precedent setting for other provinces.

Ground passes required in Olympic time

Residents who inhabit around Olympic venues in Chaoyang District must enter with provisional ground passes for both people and their vehicles. There are 13 Olympic venues in Chaoyang District, which will be the sites of 43 percent of the games. The provisional ground passes will be released 10 days before the games commence.

(By Zhang Dongya)

Three foreigners suspected of killing prostitute in Guangzhou

By Li Fenghua

A prostitute, clad only in a pink bra and panties, fell from a 30-story building last Saturday in Yuexiu district in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province.

She landed on the crossbeams between the 11th and 12th stories, arms and legs dangling in the air, and died immediately.

According to the local police, the woman was a confirmed prostitute and three foreigners were suspected of throwing her out of the window.

These suspects rented the apartment from which the woman fell via a real estate agency without registration.

An inhabitant in the opposite building found the woman's body when he opened the window in the morning.

"She was about 20. I thought it was a plastic model at first. She only had on her underwear and no shoes. There was a lot of blood on the crossbeams," a cleaner in the community surnamed Xiao said.

Firefighters retrieved the body

using a bamboo pole with ropes looped around the woman's waist at about 12:30 pm that day. The body was moved at 2 pm.

Police found an open mobile phone in the apartment.

A local resident said the woman had provided sex services to three foreigners.

The men and her had a fight because they refused to pay as three persons and ended up throwing her from the window, Wang said.

A security guard in the com-

munity said she may have fallen on her own, and reported her being visibly drunk when she was brought in by the men around midnight.

Police confirmed that the woman did not live in the building and that the accident happened in one of the three foreigners' apartments.

They confirmed there was a fight between the woman and the three foreigners, but said the cause of death remains under investigation.

Buses intercepted in Hebei

By Zhang Dongya

Bus 938 can drive from Beijing to Langfang university area without being intercepted after local authorities agreed to settle down for local operators.

Buses bound for Hebei Province were intercepted by local drivers when they attempted to cross into the province in the past two weeks. The drivers were forced to either dump their passengers or turn back.

Last Thursday, passengers on bus 938 were forced off at the Gu'an bus stop. Local buses also blockaded the route for 943.

Beijing buses have given passengers a 60 percent discount and students an 80 percent discount since January, drawing on their government subsidies.

When faced with a minimum 15 yuan fee for the local long-distance buses, passengers all chose bus 938 from Beijing to Langfang, which cost only 6.2 yuan.

To combat their drop in passenger flow, operators of long-distance buses have taken to intercepting and illegally blockading all cross-city buses. They said Beijing buses competed with them in Hebei Province unfairly because they did not receive any government subsidies.

A coordinative meeting was held by Langfang municipal government and the Beijing Board for Transportation to solve the problem. No agreement was reached, but the Langfang municipal governor said his city would ensure bus 938 reaches its destination.

"New cross-city routes will not be approved without special conditions," Liu Enquan, director of the Beijing public transportation department, said, "But we will ensure the normal operation of the present routes."

"Many routes have been operated for more than 10 years and most of them have certain historical background. Besides, they are convenient for passengers. We cannot seek extreme solutions," Liu said.

Passengers said they would prefer to take Beijing's cross-city buses, not only for the cheap tickets, but because the environment is safer and more strictly managed. The local long-distance buses have poor service records and raise their prices on rainy days and holidays.

Pretty cop causes crashes



By Bai Jingnan

Ding Hong, 26, a woman traffic director in Chongqing, is accused of indirectly causing two traffic accidents last month. It was within a week she worked as a traffic police. Drivers said they crashed their vehicles while ogling her.

Photo by Zou Fei

Hair-salon fined .5 million yuan for swindle

By Annie Wei

Zhang Yi and Yuan Shasha, two college students who went for a haircut at the hair salon, named Baoluo International Beauty Salon in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, were only expecting the 38-yuan haircut service displayed on the window.

The salon held the customers hostage after their cuts, demanding 6,000 yuan each.

The girls were not allowed to

leave until late at night when they asked 16 classmates to gather the money to pay the bill.

Even a 12,000 yuan wash, cut and blow dry would not make a dent in the 500,000 yuan fine the store would receive from the local industry and commercial bureau.

Pan Jinghua, director of the bureau, said that it only heard one complaint about this hair salon, but it was not over-charging.

The authorities said they had no right to shut down the salon as many citizens requested.

It was not the first time that the store over-charged customers. Another two customers were asked to pay 5,000 yuan when they opted for a less than 100 yuan haircut.

When local newspaper and TV station started interviewing the shop, the staff members said, "Isn't it just 12,000 yuan? That's the price

of a bottle of foreign wine."

They even threatened the girls' parents, saying that the company was very "powerful."

Local citizens were angry at the store's attitude, and wondered why authorities did not take more serious action.

Pan said the investigation is still underway, and if it turns up more violations of business regulations, its license will be revoked.

Tai-chi master seeks 12 international apprentices

By Jackie Zhang

Yuan Shi'er, 89, a tai-chi master in Foshan, Guangdong Province, joined the Foshan Wushu Supermarket last week to start recruiting female apprentices from all over the world.

Foshan Wushu Supermarket was organized by the Foshan City Sports Administration Center to provide residents with opportunities to learn from and communicate

with the city's many Wushu masters. Many Wushu masters have started classes to teach locals.

Locals call Yuan "Shi'eryi," the twelfth aunt. Because she was the twelfth child in her family, she was named Shi'er. She started to learn tai-chi in the 1970s with Qu Rongjiu, a Yang-style tai-chi master, to strengthen her body. She has practiced continually for the last 30 years, and is now almost unbeatable at pushing hands.

able at pushing hands.

"She is not simply like a tree, but a wall," Liu Yongfeng, vice director, department of physical education of Foshan University, said. "Even many of our Wushu teachers have been pushed down by Shi'eryi."

In 2004, Xiao Bing, a former high school teacher, invented Foshan Pushing Hands with Yuan by simplifying the traditional push hand's rules.

Yuan came to prominence last year when she won a pushing hands competition in Foshan. Last year, she staged a competition and invited women above 80 to challenge her in pushing hands. Few challenged her.

Liu said Foshan Pushing Hands is an exercise that allows people to defend and attack others with bare hands. It can be learned and practiced by men and women of any age.

Guidance salary for Shanghai grads online

By Li Fenghua

The Shanghai Municipal Labor and Social Security Bureau issued salary guidelines for 2008 graduates on Tuesday.

The guidelines provide a point of reference for graduates and employers, and are based on graduates' salaries of the last year.

According to data, the average monthly salary for graduates is 2,492 yuan: 6,000 yuan for PhD-holders, 4,650 yuan for masters, 2,567 for bachelors and 1,707 for technical schools.

The average has risen 385 yuan since last year.

Fast development of financial and information services in Shanghai has increased the demand for graduates of related majors. Graduates in those areas are having a higher average pay.

According to HR experts, human resource demands will increase in the modern service sector. Employees are expected to not only have professional knowledge but also to know how to put it into practical use.

Statistics show positions which require professional knowledge receive higher pay than the average administrative position.

About 20 percent of the graduates are recommended to their jobs by their colleges, 9 percent less than the last year. As many as 53 percent of the graduates found jobs by general job hunting, up 8 percent since last year. About 13 percent found their jobs online.

Graduates with lower academic credentials rely on school recommendations, and those with better records hunt online. About 22 percent of PhD and 21 percent of masters-holders found satisfactory employment online.

Who's to blame for the pilots' actions?

By Han Manman

China Eastern Airlines (CEA) admitted Monday that 21 flights were intentionally disrupted by pilots, which contradicted its previous excuse that the flights returned due to bad weather.

Although people have been punished and Eastern Airlines vows to enhance its pilot management, the incident sounded an alarm for the "safety first" airline industry.

Passenger payoff

China Eastern Airlines said Wednesday that operations at its Yunnan subsidiary returned to normal and they will offer compensation of up to 400 yuan to each passenger affected by the incident.

China Eastern said it suspended offending pilots and two officials at its Yunnan subsidiary and that they would remain under investigation. The two officials are Yang Xu, general manager of CEA's Yunnan branch, and Li Mingdao, the Party secretary of the branch. China Eastern deputy general manager Li Yangmin has been appointed as the unit's new chief.

China Eastern's statement made no mention of the labor issues, but attributed the problem to weaknesses at its management level. It vowed to improve operations and to safeguard the interests of its customers.

A case of cheating

The China Consumers' Association (CCA) said Tuesday that strikers were suspected of cheating consumers. The CCA also said it fully supports the passengers who are demanding double compensation through legal proceedings.

"When the passengers buy an air ticket, it means the airlines have a responsibility to take the passengers to their destination safely and punctually," the spokesman of CCA said.

He said China Eastern's "weather excuse" does not fly and the customers are being cheated. If any passenger wants to file a suit, CCA will help as a free deputy for a legal proceeding. CCA said passengers should keep their tickets and boarding passes in case they want to sue.

From March 31 to April 1, 21 flights returned to their departure points in Yunnan Province, in southwestern China. More than 1,000 passengers were affected by the incident and the airport terminals were crowded with anxious passengers waiting for planes.

The China Meteorological Administration (CMA) said this week that the weather condition was fine for the flight landing on March 31 even though the CEA insisted that the incidents were due to poor weather, despite the fact that other airlines flying the same routes landed on schedule during the same period.

The airline's response sparked suspicion and anger among passengers who pressed for more convincing reasons and many of them have decided to take the airline to court. "We are preparing all the evidentiary support for a lawsuit. We need to protect our legal rights," Zhang Wei, a passenger, said.

Where does the fault lie?

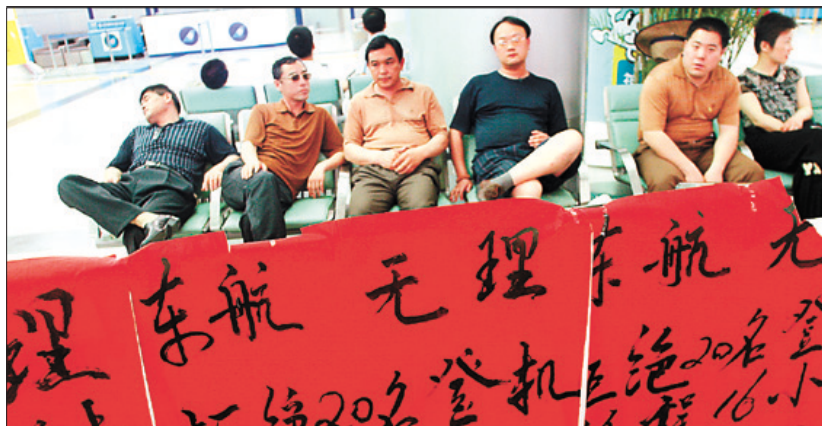
The China Eastern pilots reportedly took the extreme step because their complaints about overtime and long night shifts were not satisfactorily addressed, and they earn much less than their counterparts at the parent company. They were further discouraged when they learned they would be taxed heavily on overtime pay.

"We don't have any holidays and we are much busier during the holiday period," an



A group of 150 Eastern Airlines employees vow to rebuild the company's image.

CFP Photos



The flight dissension between passengers and Eastern Airlines has happened frequently over the years. Passengers refused to board as they are dissatisfied with Eastern Airline's long delay on May 28, 2006.

anonymous Eastern pilot, who also struck told *The Mirror*, adding that there are many problems existing at China Eastern. "We also brought up the low pay issue to the company, but you all see what the result was. The management level indeed knows our situation but ..." He admitted that they were just being investigated by the CAAC and under great pressure.

The salaries of pilots flying between major cities and short-haul feeder routes are totally different. The pilots in the Yunnan branch earn much less than those flying trunk routes, Zheng Qingping, an analyst at Tebon Securities, said.

Flight fight intensified

China Eastern was not the first domestic flight conflict incident but it has fuelled the fires.

China's civil aviation industry has faced several such events since the beginning of March. On March 14, as many as 40 pilots for Shanghai Airlines asked for sick leave. On March 28, 11 pilots from Wuhan's East Star Airlines took sudden leave after claiming they were being "treated unfairly." Several flights were canceled at Wuhan.

"Pilots are viewed as a high-paid 'golden workers' but few know the truth," a pilot from Shenzhen Airlines told *Beijing Today*. He said the average pilot salary is much lower than the public's thinking and overtime work is a common situation in domestic flight circles.

He added that a pilot is regulated to have at least a 48-hour rest period after one or more flight tasks within seven days. However, with the severe shortage of pilots, most are scheduled on overtime flights with no break.

"We can't resign due to the high compensation. And you could see there are many lawsuits between pilots and airlines and the courts always find in favor of the company not the pilot," the pilot said, adding that "The pilots can't get away from the company and their complaints are not taken any notice of by the company. Under such circumstances, they may take extreme steps to be heard and I fully understand them."

Bottom line

Industry insiders say the root of the problem is a shortage of pilots in China.

They also say the rights of pilots should be protected, but not through improper means which sacrifice the interests and safety of passengers.

Chinese airlines are increasingly facing a shortage of pilots due to booming air travel and the emergence of private airlines, such as budget carrier Spring Airlines, which offers higher wages to lure pilots away from big state-run firms.

Pilots at state carriers often must make sizable payments to their employers if they quit their jobs as state-owned airlines directly pay the high costs of pilot training.

China Southern Airlines ordered one of its pilots, surnamed Guo, to pay nearly 11 million yuan for quitting but a Wuhan court last week sentenced Guo to pay 1.8 million yuan in compensation.

Conflicts between pilots and state-owned airlines heating up in recent years were largely because of the short supply. China has 12,000 civilian pilots, but official figures predict that the total number of flights will increase by 80 percent by 2010 and 6,500 more pilots will be required.

The CAAC East China Regional Administration recently issued a new regulation that took effect on April 1, stipulating that an airline cannot lose more than one percent of its pilots annually, and that the compensation should be between 700,000 and about 2 million yuan.

New law needed

Although Eastern Airlines acknowledged that there were weaknesses in their management and vowed to improve working conditions and safeguard passengers' benefits, the real dissension between the pilots and the company remains unsolved.

Some civil aviation law experts said there is no related law on the regulation of the pilot's rights and obligations in China and they suggest drafting a new China pilot law as soon as possible.



Lhasa riots cause 280-million yuan loss

Losses from the Lhasa riots were estimated at 280 million yuan (about US \$40 million), Qiangba Puncog, chairman of the Tibet autonomous regional government said Wednesday, citing official statistics.

As many as 1,300 businesses experienced serious damage, with one jewelry shop alone losing millions of yuan worth of merchandise, the chairman said at a press briefing of the State Council Information Office.

Government aid to affected businesses included tax breaks and relief on rent, loan interest and urban surcharges.

People in Lhasa have resumed their normal lives, the chairman said.

953 suspects detained

Police in Tibet have detained 953 people suspected of participating in the March 14 violence, Qiangba Puncog, said.

Among the detained, 403 were formally arrested. A total of 362 people delivered themselves to law enforcement, 328 of whom have been set free due to their minor offenses and willingness to cooperate.

The police listed 93 suspects as the most wanted and have apprehended 13 on the list.

After the riots ceased, the local government attended to 380 injured and offered compensation to families of



Qiangba Puncog CFP Photo

18 civilians who died in the chaos, Qiangba Puncog said.

The government quickly restored public facilities, such as power supply and telecommunications. Affected fac-

ories and businesses were subsidized by the government to offset their loss during the violence, he said.

Torch relay in Tibet to be a success

Qiangba Puncog vowed that the Olympic torch relay in Tibet would be safe and successful.

"I have noticed that some secessionists planned activities in London and Paris," he said.

Their activities cannot affect the situation, but only expose their "true face" to the world, he said.

He said the battle against secessionist activities and the Dalai clique will be long, complicated and intense. The secessionists regard the Beijing Olympic Games as an opportunity to make trouble. "I don't doubt they will create trouble during the torch relay in Tibet," he said.

Hosting of the Olympic Games is a highly anticipated event, and having the torch relay pass through Tibet is the honor and responsibility of the Tibetan people. All ethnic groups in the Tibet Autonomous Region must support the torch relay, he said.

"We will prepare for it and the Olympic torch relay in Tibet will be peaceful and successful," he said.

Qiangba Puncog said if someone dared to sabotage the torch relay in Tibet, they will be severely punished.

(Agencies)

Role in Greek weightlifting scandal unlikely

(Reuters) – The government on Wednesday expressed doubt over reports that a local factory was behind positive doping tests for 11 members of Greece's national weightlifting team, but said it had launched a probe into the matter.

On Monday, a Greek Weightlifting Federation official said that a mix-up at a Chinese factory was responsible for 11 of the Greek squad members testing positive for banned substances.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that the factory had sent a letter of apology for mistakenly adding a number of banned toxic and cancer-causing substances to nutritional supplements it had provided the team for months.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu expressed doubt over the reports, but said China had launched a probe into the allegations in a statement on the ministry's Web site on Wednesday.

Ten 100-mln-ton oilfields in two years

(chinamining.org) – The country plans to discover about 10 100-million-ton oil fields by 2010, and make a new breakthrough in the prospecting of energy and important mineral resources, according to a national geological prospecting plan.

The Ministry of Land and Resources published the National Geological Prospecting Plan, fixing the general targets of the country's geological prospecting and surveying plan. The plan has recently entered force.

According to the plan, the country will by 2010 find new reserves of energy and important non-energy mineral resources and discover about 10 100-million-ton oil fields and eight gas fields of 100 billion cubic meters, as well as 200 large reserves of important mineral ores.



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Commercial banks allowed to invest in US under QDII

By Huang Daohen

Chinese institutional and individual investors were allowed to invest in the US market through Chinese commercial banks under the new Qualified Domestic Institutional Investor (QDII) scheme, the *Beijing Youth Daily* reported Monday.

The breakthrough came after Liu Mingkang, chairman of the Chinese Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC), and Christopher Cox, chairman of the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), reached an agreement on the

supervision of commercial bank's wealth management business, CBRC said in a statement on its Web site.

CBRC said that Chinese commercial banks will conduct investments on behalf of clients in the US stock markets, as well as in public funds selected by the SEC.

Since the A-share market in China faced a steeper descent than the US stock market in the first quarter, many believe that the US market will become valuable and regard QDII products as a way to diversify risk.

The door is open, but Chinese banks remain cautious since most QDII products suffered losses, particularly following the US subprime crisis. Minsheng Bank has been one of the most affected, announcing the collapse of its QDII.

"Despite fluctuations in the US market, we will treat QDII business with objectivity," Shi Zhengrong, senior manager of the Personal Financial Business Department with the Bank of Communications, said. Shi said commercial banks need to continue to gain experience and edu-

cate investors.

"As with any new market, the commercial banks need to decide when and how to carry out investments," he said.

The US was the latest country added to a range of overseas investment options open to the Chinese mainland. Other countries include the UK, Singapore and Japan.

To date, 23 commercial banks in China have acquired licenses to make overseas investments as of the end of last year, after the CSRC approved such business in May, Xinhua reported.

Pfizer loses battle for Viagra brand

By Huang Daohen

US drug maker Pfizer has lost its claim to a popular Chinese translation of its drug Viagra, according to the Beijing No. 1 Intermediate People's Court's Web site.

Pfizer filed a suit arguing that it should be entitled to the use of the brand name Wei Ge, translated as "mighty brother." However, in a recent ruling, the court said that Guangzhou Welman, a Chinese anti-impotency drug manufacturer which registered the brand Wei Ge with local authorities, should be allowed to keep it, the *Southern Metropolis Daily* reported.

The court ruled that common use of Wei Ge as a translation for Viagra does not automatically grant Pfizer any trademark rights.

Spokesmen for Pfizer's China operations were not available for comment.

EU's manager exchange produces first grads

By He Jianwei

A group of 38 Chinese managers and 18 European managers enrolled in the EU-China Managers Exchange and Training Program (METP) received certificates last Thursday night at the Hilton Hotel in Beijing.

The group is the first round of METP graduates.

The program aims to train 400 managers – half from China and half from Europe – in four groups over the four years of the program's planned lifespan.

"European managers of small- and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) who want to successfully do business in China must learn the Chinese language and business culture. We provides seven months of Chinese business language training, followed by three months of practical training at internships in China," Stefan Hell, team leader of the MEPT, said.

China Open starts cheer squad selection

By Huang Daohen

China Open began its Tennis Cheerleading Squad Show, a cheerleader campaign for the 2008 China Open, Tuesday at the Beijing Second Institute of Foreign Languages.

As many as 100 students from the city's universities attended the campaign. The campaign last year collaborated with the 57th Miss World competition, and the top three candidates from the Cheerleading Show were entered into the final Beijing round of the Miss World campaign.

China Open's first official cheering squad was composed almost entirely of Beijing university students. This year, the squad will select about 100 members, putting emphasis on the candidates' artistic skills and volunteer service.

Moschino opens new store in Beijing

By Han Manman

Just weeks after the opening of its flagship store at China Central Mall in Beijing, the second Moschino store opened in Beijing Oriental Plaza on Tuesday.

Massimo Ferretti, President of the Aeffe Group, to which Moschino belongs, said they have great expectations from Moschino's retail expansion in China and believe in the high growth potential of the China market.

GE's Chinese venture accused of violating local labor laws



GE's International President and CEO Ferdinando Beccalli-Falco told a Chengdu, Sichuan Province, forum Tuesday that GE was shocked to hear of the violations.

Xinhua Photo

By Huang Daohen

US colossus General Electric's (GE) joint venture in Southeast Chinese coastal city of Xiamen has violated China's Labor Law by unfairly exploiting its workers and not offering a safe work environment, the *Daily Economic News* reported Wednesday.

The violation was first revealed by Policy Matters Ohio (PMO), a US labor rights organization, in its recent research report criticizing the plant's bad working environment.

The report alleged that workers at GE's biggest joint venture in China, called Xiamen Topstar

Lighting Company, are required to work 64 hours a week and receive no overtime pay.

The plant only hires women under 32 and provides no pay stubs, so none know whether their pay is accurate, the report said.

It also said workers are not given necessary training and protection while working in production processes that involve mercury.

"We conducted this research because we wanted to know the conditions of overseas workers when GE is turning to manufacturing compact fluorescent light bulbs," Zach Schiller, the direc-

tor of PMO, told *China Business News*.

Schiller suggested that GE should move its bulb production back to the US.

GE expressed surprise at PMO's critical report. Its spokesman told the media that the company had inspected safety conditions and worker's treatment six months ago, and that it met standards at that time.

A company spokesman said it sent a delegation of experts to Topstar to investigate the problems listed in PMO's claim. The investigation is almost finished and Xiamen Light Industry Group said the results would

be available soon.

An official at Topstar who only gave the name Zhu denied PMO's report and said 95 percent of it was not true. "Only 5 percent, a minority of it, is an actual problem," he said.

This comes at a bad time for workers and the industry in the US. GE has closed down production of incandescent light bulbs and parts, especially in Ohio, US. The company cooperated with a Fujian Province-based group since last year for its Chinese bulb project, which would be the world's largest lighting production facility when finished.

KFC-like franchisers face deadline

By Zhang Dongya

Some well-known enterprises home and abroad, including McDonald's, KFC and Yonghe failed to submit the franchise contract to the commerce department for archival filing, according to the China Franchise Summit held on Monday. With the deadline of May 1st in the Regulation on Administering Commercial Franchises, there are only about 20 days left.

Regulation on Administering

Commercial Franchises went into effect last May. According to the law, any franchiser engaging in franchise activities shall be put on the archives of the commerce department within a year.

"There were about 2,600 franchisers engaged in franchise activities in 2006. Until now, only 236 enterprises have been put on the archives of the commerce department, less than one tenth of the number," Lin Xiao, a

Beijing lawyer who specializes in franchise laws, said.

There are three reasons why many enterprises failed to put themselves on the archives, according to Lin's speech.

Firstly, some enterprises are not qualified according to the regulation which said "a franchiser for engaging in franchise activities shall have two direct sales stores at least, and have conducted such business for more

than one year". Secondly, franchisers are requested to set up and carry out an information disclosure system which is considered a disadvantage to them. Thirdly, some franchisers have other considerations of joint venture or co-operative venture.

If a franchiser fails to put itself on the archives within the fixed period, the commerce department shall impose a fine of 100,000 Yuan at the maximum.

Stabbed senior turns the other cheek

By Huang Daohen

A retired female teacher chose to offer help instead of calling the police during a burglary attempt recently after she was severely stabbed by an injured intruder, Xinhua reported Wednesday.

The burglary happened when Li Jianhua, 53, a local resident living in Huancui district, Weihai, Shangdong Province, was on her way home on the morning of

March 26.

The robber, waiting in the corridor, appeared suddenly when Li opened her door and threatened the elderly lady with a knife.

Li cried out loud for help. The suspect, later confirmed by the police as a 19-year-old unemployed man surnamed Ding, was frightened and pressed Li to the ground. He then stabbed her in the head and neck.

Faced with the threat of death, Li struggled with Ding. During the conflict, the culprit broke his knife trying to stab Li. Stressed and exhausted, he collapsed after losing his weapon and begged Li to kill him instead of sending him to the police.

Seeing this situation, Li said, "You are almost the same age as my son. Why do you want to do this? You can walk away and I won't report this to the

police. We can go to the hospital."

Li called 120 for an emergency aid unit and accompanied her attacker to the hospital. She did not tell the truth until pedestrians who witnessed the incident and reported it to the police.

Li's move won the public support. Local residents visited Li while she was hospitalized. However, others said a criminal like Ding should be severely punished.

Victim's voice

Compassion conquers all

I did not tell others the young man was a robber. I was afraid that he would be beaten to death if I did. His wrongdoing will be punished according to the law instead of being treated by violence. I am a mother myself and had been a teacher for decades. Influencing through acts of compassion is the best way.

Comment

Sympathetic son

In the beginning, I could not quite understand my mom's actions. When I learned that she was robbed and severely hurt, I was out of control and wanted to kill this man.

But now I realize that she was right, and has forced the community to rethink the treatment of first-time

offenders.

— Song Shaobo, son of Li Jianhua

Zero tolerance

The law stipulates that violators must be punished. The criminals must not be shielded and tolerated. This is a matter of good and evil or right and wrong. We can not be tolerant about such cases.

— Wang Zhongwu, professor in law

Try a little tenderness

It is a Chinese tradition that one repay insults with kindness. Li's behavior has a high spiritual value.

It would be beneficial if everyone could be more tolerant, generous and considerate.

— Simon, netizen

Colors forces seniors to see red



Red banner waving has been a shock to diners who suffered during the Cultural Revolution.

Photo by Zhao Zhou

By Zhang Dongya

A themed restaurant called Hongqi Piaopiao has stirred up seniors with its red flag waving.

"It took me back to the Cultural Revolution when I entered the restaurant," a 62-year-old woman said, "One of my friends who had suffered in that movement felt uncomfortable and we left without having dinner."

Opened last May, the restaurant designed to emulate Cultural Revolution era in China.

It was decorated in red flags from past revolutionary years. Quotes and

posters depicting the Cultural Revolution and Chairman Mao's pictures are posted all over the walls. Sculptures of Gongnongbing, workers, farmers and soldiers, stand in the center of the hall.

All the waiters are dressed up as red guards with red bands. Waiters are required to recite the quotes and learn the dances of that time. They give song and dance performances nightly.

"You must do a military salute instead of bowing for the flower dedications," Huang Zhen, manager of the restaurant instructed the actors backstage.

"I just want to create an environ-

ment to recall the old days for people from that period," Huang said, "For people who suffered in that age, I think the historical significance and the age itself should not be ignored."

The restaurant, which has been recommended by Qianlong.com on its tourism Web page, was mostly created as a place for tourists to see historic features instead of a dining venue. Therefore, it receives visitors in groups rather than individual guests. Some young people, who admitted knowing little about that past movement, visited the restaurant for fun.

Pickpockets nabbed on the net

By Annie Wei

The local police department of Chongqing municipality posted photos of suspected pickpockets online this week and asked netizens to help identify them.

The post, titled "Can you recognize these thieves?" was linked to a local forum. It said the anti-theft division had discovered that two groups of professional thieves were actively operating in one local underground mall and Internet bar and they hoped netizens would help to identify and report these people.

The post contained 26 snapshots from monitors, with red marks and descriptions of suspects in the photos.

Zhou Tao, vice-director of the anti-theft division from the local police said they posted the snapshots online.

Since 2006, as much as 100,000 yuan was reported to have been stolen from that mall and another 21 theft cases were reported from 10 Internet bars in that area, Zhou said.

Local authorities concluded that there might be some theft rings operating and turned to the Internet for help.

Zhou said that within a week, they received 40 calls which resulted in them clamping down on two groups and they received more leads to other theft groups.

Comment

Within the law

We police studied civil law before posting these photos online. Monitor snapshots can be used as evidence for crime and they can prove these suspects were stealing money. At the same time, we did not reveal the thieves' identities or names but asked for help from the public.

— Zhou Tao, from the police station

Violation of privacy

Did the police have the right to release the suspects' photos online? I think it violates their privacy before they were judged guilty?

— a netizen questioned

Law gray

We think it a good idea to catch thieves and protect property. Still, there is no law to support the police's behavior in releasing suspects' photos online in this case.

— huan'er, student

Comment

Let sleeping dogs lie

The Culture Revolution was a painful time in Chinese history. How does it make sense to reproduce a ridiculous period? It is not respectful to history and it taints the whole image of that era.

— Ms Li, a nearby resident

Teach the children

I know little about that period of

time but I think it would be a lively lesson for youngsters and little children to see it. With the scenes, performances and stuff like posters and quotes, youngsters will get a visual impression of that age.

If they could provide some real materials about that age like books, then we can have a true history

lesson there.

— Vivienne Li, college student

History buff

I went to the restaurant once with my friends and we all found it interesting and creative. I am crazy about the old things like the posters and slogans from that age.

— Ken Wang, clerk

Flamenco queen cracks The Egg



Maria Pages

Photo provided by Standards Group

By Gan Tian

"Sevilla," a flamenco show performed by the Maria Pages Company, will delight Beijing audiences tonight at The Egg, the National Center for the Performing Arts.

Pages arrived in Beijing with her 16 dancers Wednesday evening. The dancer said she would include Chinese Shaolin elements in her next project. "Not exactly the same, but the spirit of peace and tranquility," she said, "I was really inspired when I visited there."

"Sevilla," opening tonight, shows various styles of flamenco, such as Bulerias, Soleas, Tientos, Tangos, Tonas or Deblas. The one-and-a-half-hour show will satisfy Beijing audiences with a typical Gypsy style.

The show first came to Pages's mind in 2004. Seville is the artist's hometown, so this show, after much experimentation, is really a part of her, and is a reflection of one of the thousands of souls who were also shaped there.

The performer has to travel with the troupe to different parts of the world, so she misses her hometown.

"My mom always calls me and asks when I'm coming home," Pages said, "so I have this question in the back of my head all the time." After she produced the show, the dancer thought she had found a balance between her busy life and her nostalgia.

Pages said her show requires the highest level of flamenco artists. "I talk to each of them, one on one, about psychological things," she said. The other dancers all said Pages was a good boss.

The top flamenco dancer thought her tradition faced the same problems as the Beijing Opera. However, she said all she could do was to find a way to combine

the traditional and modern. She also mentioned the difficulties she encountered – conservative people thought that combining typical traditional flamenco dance with modern would water it down. "I have to convince them – now we are living in the present. I want to leave something for my time, so in 200 years people will say, oh, this is not that 400-year-old thing," Pages said.

The dance, sponsored by Spain's State Corporation for Overseas Cultural Action, is presented with the collaboration of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Spanish Embassy in Beijing and the Instituto Cervantes. It will be performed in the Center's Opera Hall both tonight and tomorrow evening.

Two theaters intertwine in China

By He Jianwei

After nine years, the Royal Opera House (ROH) of the UK will return to China's stage and the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA) will be its first stop on its 2008 China tour from June 18 to 28, which opens the series of cooperation between ROH and NCPA.

During the one-week-long performance, the Royal Ballet Company from the opera house will present three of its best works in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong this summer, including *Sleeping Beauty*, *Manon* and a Ballet Gala.

Sleeping Beauty is the program that was performed on Covent Garden's stage, when the ROH reopened after the end of World War II.

"*Sleeping Beauty* is not all the Royal Ballet does, so equally in the program, we want to make sure that people in Beijing see some other really good pieces like *Manon* which is a compelling story," Hall said.

As Beijing is the host city of the 2008 Olympic Games and London will be the next one in 2012, Tony Hall, Chief Executive of the ROH, highlighted the importance of the relationship between the two theaters.

"We have never had a relationship with any other theater outside the UK before and this is the first theater with which we have a partnership and agreement. The relationship between our two theaters is however broader than the performing and is based on mutual respect and the ongoing exchange of expertise and ideas between arts managers, theater technicians, the artists and the many professionals with specialized and creative skills who work in our theaters," he said.

The relationship was originally sealed in the memorandum of understanding signed in Beijing last March 28.

The memorandum of understanding sets out a framework of exchange and joint activity to be undertaken in partnership between the ROH and the NCPA.

Performances by The Royal Ballet in Beijing will be accompanied by a series of workshops developed jointly by the Education Departments of the ROH and the NCPA and supported by the British Council, China and Connections through Culture Program, which provides funding and opportunities for cultural organizations in the UK and China to build partnerships.

These workshops use dance to inspire and empower young pupils in Beijing to learn and to develop their creativity through engagement with the ROH's work.



The Royal Opera House presents not only royal ballet, but also ballet with contemporary elements, such as *Chroma* in the program of the Ballet Gala to Beijing's audience. Photo provided by National Center for the Performing Arts

Scotland and New Zealand head to head in education

By Jackie Zhang

Scotland and New Zealand are two of the most famous overseas destinations for Chinese students to study. This week, Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning from Scotland and Chris Carter, minister of education in New Zealand, came to Beijing to target the Chinese education market.

The tide of Chinese students bound for study abroad has not subsided. China has the largest number of overseas students in the world, which makes the country a big and important market for foreign countries' educational market development.

The visits of both Hyslop and Carter are centered in establishing educational cooperation relationship with China's Ministry of Education. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing between China and Scotland ensured a series of academic cooperation and exchange events between the two countries. Carter signed an agreement with Zhou Ji, minister of education, concerning doctoral research scholarships between China and Scotland.

"Scotland and China want to learn from each other and together develop our education programs so that they are ready to meet future challenges," Hyslop said.

Both Scotland and New Zealand sense the increasing competition in educational markets in the world. And they are all aware of the importance of the Chinese market. "Scottish education is specifically strong in certain fields like medicine, computer science and energy. Scotland has only one-thousandth of the world population, but the academic thesis we publish every year covers one percent of the world. We can provide students good quality education," Carter said.

As for New Zealand's highlights to attract Chinese students, Carter said that the unique lifestyle in the country would give students a totally different experience. "The picturesque landscape and lifestyle in New Zealand will lighten overseas students' life and study," Carter said. New Zealand is a country welcoming immigrants. He said it is also an advantage for their country to attract more Chinese students.

Hyslop and Carter said they did not think it was a coincidence for them to visit China at the same time. "It shows that both of our countries are interested in cooperating with China," Hyslop said.

"I know that the Prime Minister of Australia visits China this week. He will also talk with China on education. We're all emphasizing an educational relationship with China," Chris Carter said.

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BEIJING TODAY

Advertisement

Earth's hope rests with the young



Marc Kielburger of Leaders Today/Free the Children, one of the keynote speakers of the conference

Photo by WAB

By Annie Wei

Three hundred students and teachers from over 40 schools in 10 different countries came to the Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) for the EARCOS Global Issues Network (GIN) Conference last weekend.

The network aims to encourage people who are willing to come together to learn more about what they can do to help find solutions to the global issues.

The theme of the conference was "Earth's Hope," which reflects GIN's mission to help students realize that they can make a difference in the world

by empowering them to work with their peers internationally to develop solutions.

"These young people are the Earth's hope, the generation we have been waiting for. We are counting on them to be the change," Sheila Burch, former WAB teacher and conference organizer, said.

Keynote speakers included Jean-Francois Rischard, author of *High Noon: Twenty Global Problems, Twenty Years to Solve Them*, which inspired the formation of the Global Issues Network. He gave an outstanding speech. Also in attendance, Marc

Kielburger of Leaders Today/Free the Children, a network of children helping children through education.

Other interesting keynote speakers were like Austin Gutwein, 13, from the US, who started Hoops for Hope to benefit AIDS orphans; Jane Goodall, via live interactive video conference; John Liu from Earth's Hope (Beijing) and Hafsat Abiola.

Abiola is daughter of the former President of Nigeria, who now lives in Beijing and works with various organizations for women, including KIND, an NGO that seeks to

empower democracy and development in Nigeria.

This event, the first of its kind to be held in Asia, brought together young people from international schools across Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Hong Kong and from as far away as Japan, Korea and Turkey.

Participating Beijing schools included the Canadian International School, Beijing Concord College of Sino Canada, BCIS, Dulwich College, ISB and WAB, in addition to School Year Abroad-China and Beijing Beiyi Middle/High School, affiliated with Beijing University.

Drug bust in Sanlitun

By Gan Tian

The city's police pounced on illegal drug dealers in the Sunset Grill and the Pure Girl Bar in Sanlitun last Friday evening.

The police made their bust at 10 pm last Friday evening, to clean up Sanlitun's dark side.

"There were some Africans entering the van peacefully," a witness surnamed Wei said, "The police blocked off Sanlitun Street for a little while as they went about their business."

Later, it was discovered that the Sunset Grill and the Pure Girl Bar were spots where drugs had been stashed.

By 11 am last Saturday morning, 36 criminals had been arrested, including 21 expats. There were more than 2 kilograms of drugs found at the scene, including marijuana, ecstasy and crystal meth.

The police did not offer any information on the criminals arrested.

Recently the police received reports saying that there were drug deals going down in Sanlitun.

The police made it clear that their sole purpose was to crackdown on illegal activity, especially drug trading, and

enforce the peace in Beijing communities. They also mentioned that the Sanlitun community is now safe.

Tom Wolfe from the UK, who lived in Sanlitun for two years, said the area had no drug problems, and illegal drug selling was random. "If someone is caught dealing drugs, don't expect too much public sympathy. In Sanlitun, it's fairly peaceful," he said.

Kelly Chi from the US, who often goes clubbing in Sanlitun, said there were people selling pills to her when she was partying at one of the pubs there.

"I refused the dealer because I knew it was illegal," she said, "The episode really upset us because we think it is unsafe there," Chi said.

The drug traders even threatened nearby districts and communities. A 23-year-old girl surnamed Wong who was living in Tuanjiehu Community said, "There are many suspicious expats living in my building - they don't have jobs, carry big bags everyday and do nothing."

Wong said she thought they must be drug dealers, and she was a little bit afraid when she went home late at night.

600 students cater to the Olympics



Volunteers learning catering for the Games

Photo by Liu Haifeng

By Zhang Dongya

600 students from Tianjin University of Commerce (TUC) were selected by the Aramark and Capital Tourism Group as Beijing Olympic Games volunteers.

They will provide catering services for people in the athletes' villages, media villages, news centers and other places.

The chosen students came from all grades of Hospitality

and Tourism Management Departments.

Besides their college training, they will be sent to Beijing for professional training in May and July.

Aramark, one of the largest food services companies, has provided food service for 13 Olympic Games. Aramark entered China in 2004 and will cater the Beijing Olympic Games this year.

Event

China Rivers Project: Can "Messing About in Boats" Save China's Rivers?

Fresh off the last descent of the Yangtze River's classic Great Bend stretch, Kristen McDonald, director of the China Rivers Project, shares images and stories of China's endangered river canyons. During the first two weeks of April, she and fellow Chinese and American rafters will explore and document this classic canyon for perhaps the last time. In addition to a trip report, Kristen will present China Rivers Project's strategy for saving China's River Heritage - by getting people in boats.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 16, 7:30 pm

Tel: 6586 9507

Traditional Chinese Diet: Prepare your body for spring

Are you feeling a bit lethargic from spring fever? Do you know what types of food you should be eating in spring to keep your energy in-balance? Learn and benefit from simple diet therapies based on traditional Chinese medicine principles, with cooking demos of delicious spring recipes that you can make at home for you and your family. The workshop will be in English.

Where: Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 16, 10 am - 12 pm

Cost: 100 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9am - 6pm), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; and weekend, rerouted to mobile phone)

Hotpot at Song

Beijing music lovers/humpers' new favorite party, HOTPOT, returns for another round with the choicest cuts served up by New York City's DJ Lomang, Japan's DJ Shougo, Singapore's DMC Champion Inquisitive, and of course, Beijing's own 3xChina DMC Champion, DJ Wordy. Mixing up a melange of beats - anything from Golden Era hip hop to funk and soul to rock n'roll to mashups and electro - the music policy is simply quality.

Where: Song, B 108, The Place, Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

When: April 12, 10 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Lecture: Creating an International Career

Kitty Vorisek, JPMorgan Vice President, will talk about her experiences working in various international markets, from Budapest to Beijing. She'll also take questions from event attendees. The goal of the informal lectures is to bring together like-minded young members to meet, network and gain insight from some of the top professionals in Beijing.

Where: JPMorgan Offices, Beijing Winland International Finance Center, 7, Financial Street, Xidan, Xicheng District

When: April 15, 11:45 am - 1 pm

Admission: free

Registration: register with Julie Leng at Julie@amcham-china.org.cn.

(By He Jianwei)

Tibet to re-open tourism

By Annie Wei

Tibet will be open to tourists from home and abroad starting next month, the regional tourism bureau said last week, after closing for last month's Lhasa riots.

All travel agencies can arrange tours and independent travelers are also welcome, Zhanou, the bureau's deputy director said.

The regional government stopped issuing tourist permits to foreign travelers March 16 and the tourism bureau recommended Chinese travel organizations postpone tours.

There are 100,000 people working in the tourism industry in Tibet, and it contributes 70 percent of Lhasa's GDP, Wang Xiangming, from local government said.

The announcement was important to tour operators, hotels and restaurant owners in Tibet, who complained of major losses due to the riots.

The local government has brought back normal social order to make sure tourists arrive during the May holiday.

Last year, nearly 3 million tourists from home and abroad visited Lhasa and local authorities expect a 30 percent growth rate to over 3 million this year.



The Shoton Festival, celebrated for more than 300 years, is held annually in late June and early July. Thousands of Buddhists go on a pilgrimage to Drepung Monastery during the festival. In the local language Shoton Festival means a festival to drink yogurt. In ancient times, Buddhists went to the mountains to cultivate themselves.
Photo by Guang Niu

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyi@ynet.com

I am working for a Chinese company. However, my company says that they cannot offer me any medical or pension insurance that Chinese employees have. Why is that?

The main reason is that foreigners are not eligible for most of the mandatory Chinese social insurance plans. But your company should still offer you work injury insurance or reimburse you some basic international insurance. You can find more detailed information from FESCO.org.

More and more expat friends I know are acquiring the bus-cards. I think it would be quite convenient for me to get one for subways and buses. Do you know where I can do this and how much it costs?

You can find them in many places and get charged at all the convenience stores.

For a location near you, check: zhidao.baidu.com/question/7397715.html. The card deposit costs 20 yuan and the minimum fee is 20 yuan for first time, 10 yuan after.

Is the new Apple Macbook Air already available in Beijing? And how much does it cost?

Beijing Today editorial staff members said they have seen it at some authorized Apple stores at the Oriental Plaza and other shopping malls. However, some sellers confirmed that the Macbook Air's inventory was very low. Therefore, they might not have the products right away and you'll need to place an order. It costs 19,000 for a Macbook Air in Beijing stores but only 15,000 yuan in Hong Kong. Check Maxcn.com, which is recommended by some local Mac fans.

(By Wei Ying)

Performance of RECITAL

By Annie Wei

BMDC, SMDC and KAFIG co-present "RECITAL," funny union where the energy of hip-hop mingles with tones of the violin and the talk box!

Mourad Merzouki, choreographer of the show, said that they sought to develop a dance and musical work where antipodean tones fuse with humor, in a space where dancers are utter strangers.

"We destabilize our own vision of hip-hop. These are the

elements which constitute the very essence of this new creation," he said.

Where: Haidian Theatre, 28 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian District

When: April 15, 2008, 19:30 PM

Ticket Hotline: 4008103721, 6417 0058
BMDC Friends Hotline: 13810820373

Cost: 380 (VIP), 180, 120 and 100, 50 percent off with a Student ID

Nanluoguxiang creativity event this weekend postponed

By Bai Jingnan

The Nanluoguxiang iMart creativity show in Dongcheng district scheduled for this weekend has been postponed.

The event, organized by the local community committee and popular magazine City Pictorial, was expected to offer lots of fun and green-themed activities.

Some famous designers planned to release Chinese tradi-

tional artworks made from second-hand materials.

Organizations like Goethe College and MUJI, were ready to promote environment protection and varied usages for handkerchiefs; Greenpeace was to attend also promoting anti-disposable chopsticks.

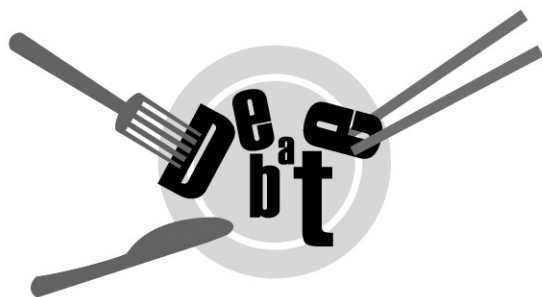
Local organizers said the event is postponed for now and a new date has not been decided.

7

Debate



Eastern and western viewpoints meet here



洋腔论见

文化差异的碰撞与融合



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Debate

BEIJING TODAY



Vitra Design Museum

By Han Manman

Once a building is accidentally destroyed, its re-construction always surpasses the original. Vitra, a German furniture factory, went even further after it was destroyed down in a 1981 fire. Rather than restoring it, the owner decided to build a museum upon the original site, and devoted a big part of it to classical chairs. Now 100 chairs from the Vitra Design Museum are in Beijing, to tell a 200-year-old story.



Alexander von Vegesack

Executive Director of the Vitra Design Museums

In 1978-79, von Vegesack organized tours of Morocco and traveled through the country on horseback at the invitation of the Moroccan Princess Lalla Amina, sister of Hassan II. From 1985 he conducted extensive research on the geographical dissemination of the Arabian riding saddle throughout Spain and to the American continent. Upon the basis of his extensive furniture collection, he contributed to the establishment of design departments at the Centre Georges Pompidou and the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, and at the Museum of Applied Arts in Vienna. Since 1989, Alexander von Vegesack has served as founding Director of the Vitra Design Museum.

The chair has been an object of everyday use for many centuries – used by everyone, yet rarely accorded any recognition. It has enjoyed a long history and continues to develop with new shapes, new materials and novel manufacturing techniques.

Through the evolution of chairs, the exhibition shows the development of world design history as well as that of people's thinking about designs for the last two centuries.

According to Alexander von Vegesack, curator of Vitra Design Museum, chairs were chosen as the subject because of their intimacy with the human body and this has made them the favorites of designers, architects and artists. From the changes in chairs, visitors can see the evolution of design as well as the relationship between the design and the world.

The Century Classic Chair Exhibition features 100

chairs designed by master artists between 1800 and 1990. The models are handmade on a scale of one to six, and they are exactly like the original chairs. Visitors are not allowed to sit on them. The materials used in some models are left over from the original chairs.

"By looking at a chair from a certain period, you can learn the development of western civilization, as the chair is the first piece that is affected by changing ideas. So, they are a wonderful witness to our civilization," the curator said.

The compactness and clarity of the miniatures enable visitors to trace the historical development of industrial furniture production in a limited space, and gain insight into the wide variety of styles of contemporary design.

To help visitors understand the designs, the exhibition includes the design sketches and some pictures in chronicle order. A catalogue of the designs is also available.

Curator recommendations

Vegesack said every important epoch and style is represented in the exhibition – from early examples of mass production through the most recent design innovations.

Low-priced, mass-produced goods were the goal of several generations of designers. At the beginning of the post-war baby boom, Charles and Ray Eames designed a stackable children's chair that could be produced efficiently and in large quantities simply by molding plywood. The chair consists only of two parts: the seat and legs are made of one continuous piece of plywood, and the back is attached.

Swivel chairs, folding chairs, and chairs with cantilever bases resulted from advances in technology. Designers began to think of furniture as machine-like: functional, versatile and easy to use. Gerrit Thomas Rietveld championed the "machine aesthetic" and was among the first to design an armchair made entirely of industrial material – aluminum.

Vegesack's voice

Tips for young Chinese designers:

"Young Chinese designers should travel around the world, look at different cultures and learn how to deal with the subject of design. After that, look at your own culture and find what is different. You need to show the Chinese elements in your product, and then your product will be exciting to the world."

Make art your life:

"Pursuing a life of art does not have to be expensive and

complicated. Art does not depend on the amount of money you have. Many have more interest in the simple objects as opposed to the highly-decorated pieces."

Cheap chairs have value:

"I have chairs from three markets, they are all cheap but I think they are valuable. The value of the chair depends on what you are expecting. Regarding your health, you think twice about what you invest in your well being, you should also think the same way about the quality of the chair."

Weil am Rhein – City of Chairs

Chairs and tables are the first objects to appear when you settle into Weil am Rhein. The city's residents always greet their guests with the invitation to "take a seat."

The "maxiatures" are over-sized replicas of major chair designs in a scale ranging from 1.5:1 to 8:1. The chair sculptures location even became the popular site for friends to meet.

Weil am Rhein has played a role in the historical

development of the chair for some fifty years now. At the production site of the Vitra company, a unique architectural ensemble has been constructed. Together with the Vitra Design Museum, which presents alternating exhibitions on topics of furniture design, it has indisputably become one of Weil's major attractions. Every year Vitra draws numerous domestic and international visitors to the city.



Karl Schinkel, 1820



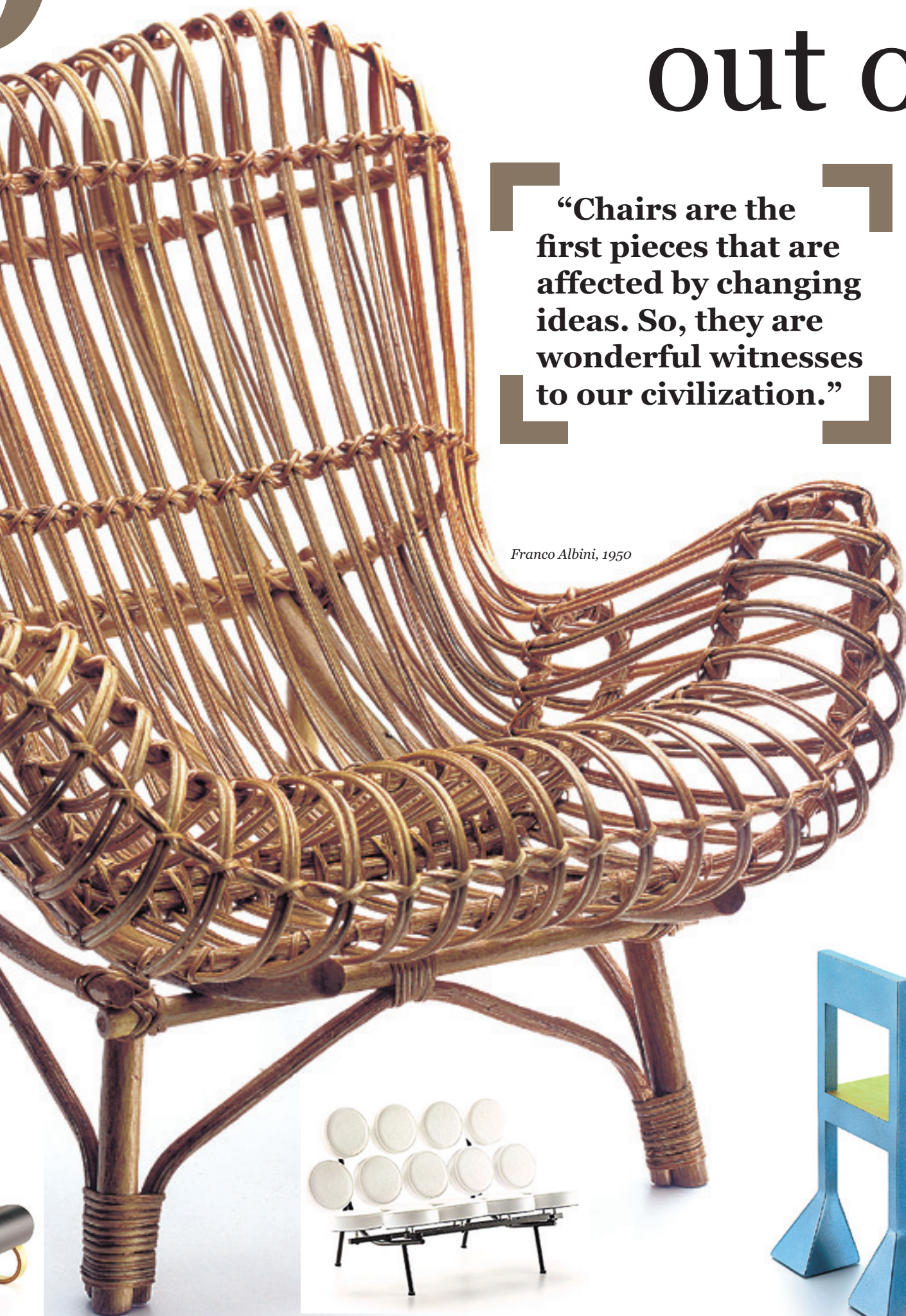
Philippe Starck, W. W. Stool, 1990



Alvar Aalto, Fauteuil 41, "Paimio", 1933

year-old chair story, out of fire

“Chairs are the first pieces that are affected by changing ideas. So, they are wonderful witnesses to our civilization.”



Franco Albini, 1950



Charles Ray Eames, RAR Chair
Creme White, 1950



Marc Newson Lockheed Lounge, 1986



Frank Lloyd Wright,
Peacock Chair "Imperial
Hotel", 1921-1922



George Nelson Marshmallow Sofa, 1954-1955



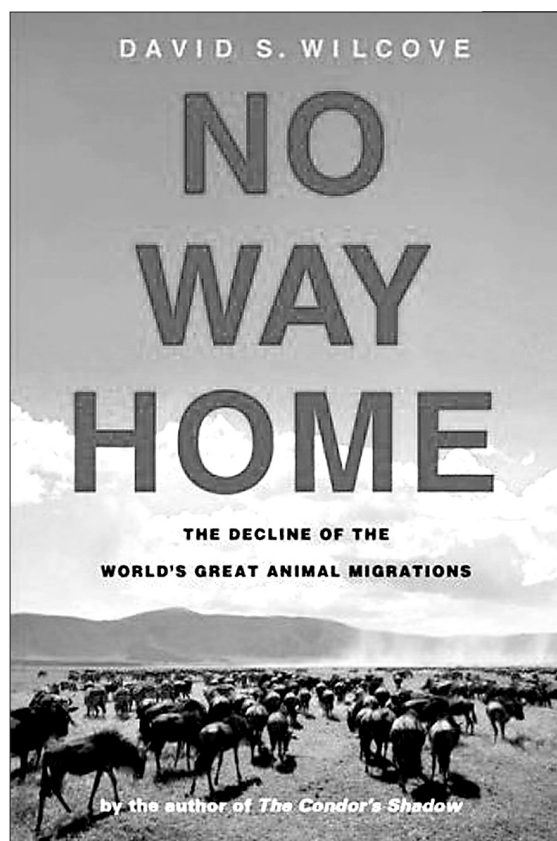
Alessandro Mendini, Sedia
Spaziale, 1975

Photos provided by Han Yajun

The Century Classic Chair Exhibition

Where: Financial Street Shopping Center

When: Until May 4



Preserving the way home

By Charles Zhu

Red-headed cranes winter in Japan every year and migrate to southern Shaanxi to spend the summer. Flocks of geese make the thousand-mile trek back to China's west every spring. The world is divided by the migration routes of geese, elk, salmon, dragonflies, zebras and leatherback turtles.

Some of the bird species stop over in China's eastern seacoast on their journeys to the far east in autumn and back to China's west in spring. Bird-watchers frequent stop-over sites like Cape May, New Jersey, to see birds on their way to the far north in the spring and back to the tropics in the autumn. Tourists travel to the Serengeti to watch flocks of wildebeest on their migratory path.

However, migration is vanishing, David Wilcove, a biology professor of Princeton University, warns in his new book *No Way Home* (256pp, Island Press, US \$24.95). In the book, he discusses the drop off in animal migration worldwide.

One of the greatest threats to migration is hunting, he says. Other threats include the destruction of habitats, a decrease in wetlands and climate change. Some of the world's most spectacular migration paths have vanished due to human interference, and others are on the verge of extinction.

Scientists are still studying what drives animals to migrate and how they manage to cover such long distances, sometimes without even stopping to eat.

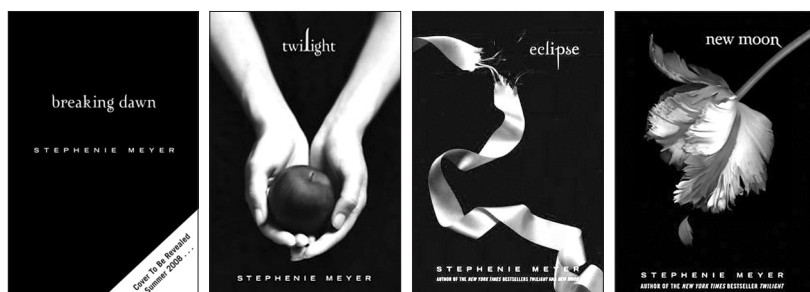
The greatest danger is that hunters often await the animals at their destination, since their arrival time and place is predetermined by nature. The destruction of habitats like forests and wetlands limit how productive the species of animals can be, and leads to a decrease in population.

In *No Way Home*, Wilcove discusses the threats posed to migratory birds and salmon that swim from the oceans to rivers and jump over a series of dams to the pebbled

river bed for spawning. He observed that cowbirds can destroy migratory songbirds by throwing the eggs of songbirds out and laying their own in the latter's nests.

David Wilcove thinks that climate change in the years to come may threaten the migrations of animals by depriving them of the ecosystems they are used to and the food on which they depend.

It is an ever greater challenge for the humans, he argues, to preserve such natural phenomenon as the migratory animals roam across national borders. For instance, the red knot travels from the Arctic to the southern tip of South America across many countries. It calls for international cooperation and good will. The author discusses ways to cooperate and protect the Serengeti Plains between Tanzania and Kenya and the protection of the sandhill crane between the US and Canada. Wilcove terms such efforts "the most daunting, yet rewarding challenges in wildlife conservation."



Another vampire story

By Li Jing

Falling in love and finding out he is not the guy you thought he was happens often enough, but what if he turns out to be a real monster.

A typical human predicament befalls 18-year-old Isabella Swan, heroine of the *Twilight* saga, when she tries to keep up a "just friends" relationship with a young man. Her life takes an exciting turn when she meets the mysterious and alluring Edward Cullen on her first day as a junior transfer student to Forks High School.

Edward, from a family with dark secrets, has managed to keep his true identity hidden, but Bella is determined to uncover his dark secret. What Bella does not know is the closer she gets to him, the more she puts herself and those closest to her at risk. It may be too late to turn back.

Twilight (512 pp, Little, Brown, US \$19.99) is written by bestselling author Stephenie Meyer. She said the idea for the book came to her in a dream about a girl and a charming vampire sitting together in a meadow, which formed the basis of chapter 13 of *Twilight*, the first book of her vampire series, published in October 2005. The book won numerous honors, including the New York Times Editor's Choice and American Library Association's "Top Ten Best Book for Young Adults."

Meyer published the sequel, *New Moon* (608 pp, Little, Brown, US \$19.99) in 2006 August. *New Moon* remained at first place on the best seller list for 11 weeks. She published the third installment, *Eclipse* (640 pp, Little, Brown, US \$19.9), last August. The fourth installment, *Breaking Dawn* (704 pp, Little, Brown, US \$22.99), is due out this August.

Though it is listed as a young adult book, it will be a pleaser for adult vampire fans as well.

CNPIEC Bookstore book listing

The China National Publication Import and Export Corporation's (CNPIEC) bookstore recommends the following new arrivals to *Beijing Today* readers.

The Empty Chair

By Jeffery Deaver, 512 pp, Simon & Schuster, 90 yuan

Lincoln Rhyme is a former New York City cop whose on-the-job injury several years earlier left him with movement in only one finger. Rhyme was called to oversee the search for a kidnapper and his victims. As he examines forensic evidence from the crime scenes and points along the search route, Rhyme grows increasingly suspicious about which players are the good guys and which are masking their evil intentions.

Mercy

By Jodi Picoult, 464 pp, Hodder Paperback, 90 yuan

As the police chief of a small

Massachusetts town, Cameron MacDonald has devoted his life to his duty. When his cousin Jamie arrives at the police station with the body of his wife Allie and confesses that he killed her, Cam immediately places him under arrest. While he aids the prosecution in preparing the case against Jamie, Cam feels an instant and inexplicable attraction to a new assistant at Allie's floral shop and finds himself betraying his own wife.

The Alexandria Link

By Steve Berry, 544 pp, Hodder Paperback, 90 yuan

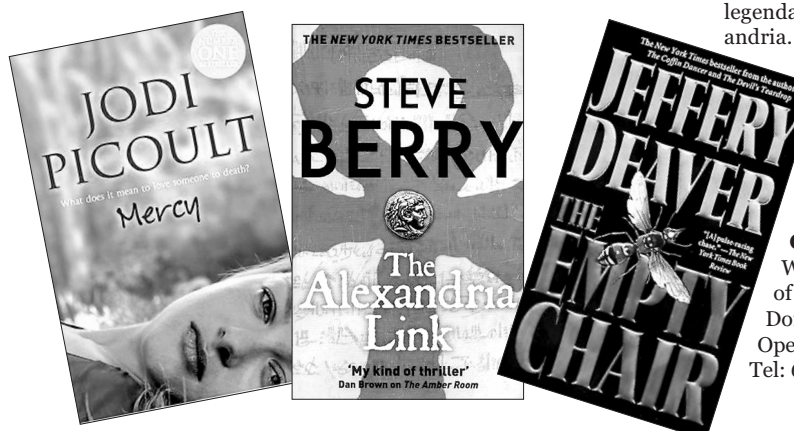
Cotton Malone's son has been kidnapped and his bookshop in Copenhagen attacked, all because he is the only man alive who knows the whereabouts of the Alexandria link — the means of locating the most important cache of ancient knowledge ever assembled: the legendary Library of Alexandria. The library vanished without a trace 1,500

years ago. Malone is forced to join the search for a forgotten truth hidden within that vast literary treasure.

CNPIEC Bookstore

Where: the second floor of CNPIEC, No 16 Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang
Open: 8:30 am – 6:30 pm
Tel: 6500 1859, 6592 6871

(By Zhang Dongya)



Building better habits

By He Jianwei

Life can become a cobweb of emails, phone calls and files, and instant messaging software makes office time less efficient. Some new Web sites that help people manage their time are increasingly popular among Chinese office workers. These sites provide practical tools for time management and a support community of other netizens to make sure users stick to their plans.

How to save time

"If I have a lot of work to do, I'm always in a flurry. GTD is a good way for me to arrange everything and finish tasks more efficiently," Lucia Zhao, a secretary in a company, said.

"I can concentrate on the tasks at hand" since she started to use mangbar.com, she said.

She first lists all her tasks to collect everything that must be completed, remembered or done. "The more specific, the better. For example, I will list the task of deleting the alternate files I made yesterday," she said.

To evaluate the importance of the tasks is the second step. "There are so many tasks I must do every day, but if I do not know which is most important, I end up lost," she said.

She will evaluate which task is the most important, which is least important and which can be postponed. "Something like 'learn French' would be listed as a future task," she said.

To organize the tasks is the third step. It is the key step that determines how efficiently you work. "If I have too many tasks to remember, it will waste my time. I have to organize all the tasks well," she said.

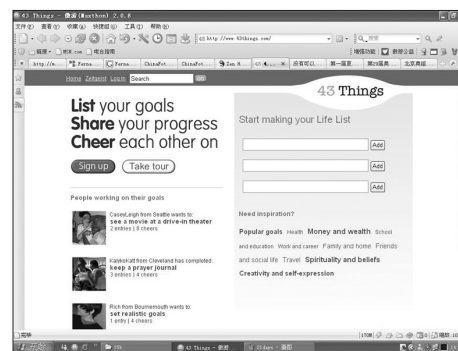
For every item that requires attention, to decide what is the next action is critical. "For example, if the item is 'write a project report,' the next action might be 'call managers for a meeting.' I will organize these items one by one," she said.

Based on a book

Registered users on mangba.com are given an online work space. They can write down a list of tasks and split up big tasks into small pieces to ensure they finish each task on time.

These Web sites are based on lessons from the book *Getting Things Done: The Art of Stress-Free Productivity* (by David Allen, 267 pp, Penguin, US \$ 15), which describes an "action management method."

Getting Things Done (GTD) is based on the principle that a person needs to get tasks out of his head and onto a list. Writing down a list of tasks frees the worker from remembering everything that needs to be done and allows him to concentrate on actually performing tasks.



Encourage and supervise

Once the plan is ready, it still needs a human to execute it. Web site users not only record their work tasks online, but also their life tasks.

"I must memorize 20 words every day; I must run a kilometer every day; I must learn to swim this summer." On aimi.cn and 21days.cn, users post their future tasks.

"Most of us only do things half-heartedly. It is a way to waste time," Rainy Wu, a reporter from *Beijing Radio*, said.

Before she registered on 21 days.cn, Wu always worked this way. "I bought an exercise card for a gym, but I rarely used it. I blamed it on my busy work days, but it was just an excuse," she said.

She made a chart on the Web site to record what she will do everyday. She marks off each item as she finishes tasks.

"I can encourage myself, and others who share their experience to give me something to learn from," she said.

She has three projects: to learn Korean, to exercise 30 minutes every day and to read one book every month. "It is a long-term time management plan for me. My life changed after I started to make plans. When I wake up every morning, the plans are already in my mind. The first thing I do when I sit down at the computer is record my progress," she said.

"I think I can form good habits since I conquer tasks a piece at a time, day by day," she said.

Most of the users on these Web sites are IT, media, advertisement, education and trade workers.

Similar Web sites

In English
zenhabits.net

Covers how to achieve goals and be productive, organized and motivated, how to eliminate debt, save, get a flat stomach, eat healthy, live frugal, be a good parent, by happy and how to form good habits.

43things.com

A social networking Web site built on the principles of tagging, rather than creating explicit interpersonal links.

In Chinese
mifengtd.cn

A blog that covers time management in life and work.

lifebang.com

A social networking Web site for sharing tips on how to manage life and work.

Ganji:

a journey to out-of-town markets

By Gan Tian

For most local expats, life begins and ends in Chaoyang district. Have you ever considered trying some place new? Get out of town, for example. *ganji*, usually happens on the outskirts of town, and is gradually becoming a fashion. *Beijing Today* takes you out of the Chaoyang district and introduces you to some of these fringe market activities.

Handicrafts at markets in Daxing District



Big markets on the fringe

Ganji, a typical northern Chinese tradition, means people traveling to bigger markets on the outskirts to purchase what they need. The markets, *jishi*, resemble a temple fair and usually take place in small counties or on the outskirts of big cities. Decades ago, farmers used to sell and purchase cattle and agricultural implements at these markets, where large space is needed. No wonder a typical countryside image springs to mind when people talk of ganji.

Later, it gradually becomes a regular place like a supermarket where visitors can buy all kinds of stuff. On the day when people go to ganji, vendors will stock their products there, sit down and bargain with customers. The market sometimes lasts for only one day, but can run as long as half a month.

Many young city dwellers consider ganji trendy. For one thing, they can escape the city and enjoy a brand-new countryside view during breaks. The products at these out-of-town markets are much cheaper and varied.



A Chinese market in Thailand

Eye-opening experience

About 100 meters south of the Panggezhuang Exit on the Jinghai Express, there is a *jishi*. It usually operates from 5 to 6 am. If arrive at around 9 pm, you will find the place packed with crowds.

The market is divided into different areas according to the products. There are vegetables and food, everyday articles, clothing and agricultural implements.

Liu Bojun, a college student who visited last Saturday, was astonished at what was there. She saw some artificial human hairs being sold at a stand, but later the stand-owner told her these were actually nets for catching birds, which indeed surprised Liu. "The net is used to prevent the birds from eating fruits and food on the farms," Wang, the stand-owner told the young student.

Later, Liu found out that a lot of things sold at the *jishi* usually aimed at helping the farmers and peasants.

Still, the markets attracted a lot of people from the city. Zhen Baiyun, who lives in Xicheng district, came here to find a hoe. "These agricultural implements can't be found easily in town, so I came here to try my luck. To my surprise, I found everything I needed," he said.



Qingyundian *jishi* market



Lixianzhen *jishi* market

CFP Photos

Beijing *jishi* tips

- Downtown customers usually pack the vegetables and foods and everyday articles areas. Never buy clothes there – you will never use them. They are usually not very fashionable
- If you are refurbishing your new house, come here for tools. Lots at great prices.
- A vegetable and fruit fan will have a field day here. Fresh, fresh, fresh. Cheap, cheap, cheap.
- However, please do not buy vegetables and fruits from the vendors who deliver them in trucks since they are from other markets and contain chemicals and are more expensive.
- Buy from the small three-wheel pushcarts. Those vendors grow their product using healthier methods.
- How cheap can it get here? You can get fennels at one yuan per jin. At the Xinfadi Market in town, the same fennels will cost you 1.5 yuan per jin. Cabbages cost 0.3 yuan compared with 0.5 yuan per jin at other markets.
- You do not need to bargain too much here since the prices are already very low.

What are you waiting for?

- There is a *jishi* in every small county in the outskirt districts like Daxing and Fangshan. For example, there are Panggezhuang, Lixianzhen, Qingyundian *jishi* in Daxing District.
- According to Chinese tradition, the *jishi* opens at around the same time every month on the Chinese calendar – so do make sure it is open before you travel there.
- Going to a *jishi* on the weekends is the best plan and you can enjoy the countryside at the same time!

Indulge in guilt-free desserts

By Li Fenghua

Most ladies love dessert, but given all the calories each after-dinner treat packs, that great flavor is often followed by regret. But it is not that difficult to settle the battle between your figure and your mouth. If you cannot resist the charm of dessert, you can still enjoy dainty treats without worrying about your waistline.



Parfaits

By Li Fenghua

In the US, dessert consists of ice cream layered with flavored syrup or fruit and whipped cream. It's often topped with whipped cream, nuts and sometimes a maraschino cherry.

A French parfait is a frozen custard dessert made with egg yolks, sugar, whipped cream and a flavoring such as fruit puree. In French, "parfait" means "perfect" – a perfect way to describe this dessert. Both American and French parfaits are served in tall, narrow-footed "parfait glasses."

Parfaits are a good way to layer fruit, nuts and yogurt for a classic dessert that looks fun and festive. Shave chocolate on the top if you are missing its sweet, cocoa flavor.

Justine's

Justine's, located near Jianguomen, is famous for its French cuisine. Its special kiwi parfait is low in calories and goes down easy.

Where: 1st Floor of Jianguo Restaurant, No.5 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 2:30 pm, 6-10:30 pm

Tel: 6500 2233 ext 8039

Price: 65 yuan

Photo by Li Fenghua



Affagato

By Li Fenghua

Affagato is a dessert made by adding a scoop of vanilla bean ice cream to a coffee cup and pouring a shot of hot espresso over the top. It is an Italian specialty and is also spelled "Affagato." Affagato means 'drowned' in Italian, and can apply to any frozen dessert covered in a little liquor or coffee. Classically, espresso is poured over Vanilla Ice Cream.

With a cup of espresso poured on the rum chocolate ice cream, affagato is mixed with the flavor of ice cream and the scents of espresso, a traditional way of the Romans. The amorous

Italian feeling is too good to pass up.

Annie Cafe

Annie's affagato tastes very refreshing. Flavored with almond, vanilla ice cream and bearing the aromatic qualities of espresso coffee, it is a tasty and wonderful treat you can make at home.

Where: West of SOHO Newtown, 88 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11:30 am – 11 pm

Tel: 8589 8366

Price: 25 yuan

Photo by Li Fenghua

Clafouti

By Zhang Dongya

Clafouti is a custard-like, baked French classic made from fresh fruit – traditionally cherries – and a pancake-like batter.

It hails from the Limousin region of France and is a popular breakfast treat during the peak of cherry season. In France, the dish is often made without pitting the cherries because the pits are thought to enhance the flavor of the batter with a perfume faintly reminiscent of almond.

Other kinds of fruit, such as plums, prunes, apples, cranberries or blackberries, can be used in place of cherries. Such substitutes are called "flognarde."

Clafouti is healthy when made with skimmed milk and fruit, and can aid in weight loss and combat blemishes. Cherry Clafouti is like a cherry custard or a two-inch pancake filled with cherries. It is an easy-to-make dessert that can be prepared in a home oven.

Ingredients:

Butter	Cherries
1 Tbsp sugar	1 Tbsp cornstarch
1/3 cup all purpose flour	
1 cup almonds	4 eggs



Pinch of salt
1/4 cup butter

Instructions:

Heat the oven to 190 C. Generously butter a shallow 1 1/2-quart glass or ceramic baking dish. Combine cherries, 1 tablespoon of sugar and cornstarch in medium bowl and toss to coat. Arrange cherries in the bottom of the dish. Blend flour and almonds in a food processor until the nuts are finely chopped. Whisk eggs, salt and the remaining 1/2 cup of sugar in large bowl to blend. Whisk in the flour mixture. Add milk, butter and vanilla extract, and whisk until smooth. Pour custard over cherries. Bake the clafouti until it is set in center and golden on top, about 35 minutes. Cool slightly. Sprinkle powdered sugar on top and serve warm.

Waffleboy

Where: B1, Building A, Fuhua Building, 8, Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 9 am – 9 pm

Tel: 6554 3366



1 cup milk
1 Tsp vanilla extract

Baked apples

By Zhang Dongya

Baked apples, a traditional Mexican food, are often served as dessert in Mexican restaurants. Apple orchards flourish in scattered areas of the borderlands, from Arteaga in southeast Coahuila to Velarde in northern New Mexico. The fruit is stuffed with pecans from the same region, baked and lapped with tangy cajeta, a goat's-milk caramel sauce.

Some people prefer to have the apples with a generous scoop of vanilla ice cream, honey and Red Hots.

With simple recipes and easily accessible ingredients, it is a popular recipe to cook at home. Add hot, rich baked apples to the menu to give the family big smiles at the dinner table.

Ingredients:

Apples
1/4 cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 cup chopped pecans
1/4 cup currants or chopped raisins
1 Tbsp butter
3/4 cup boiling water

Instructions:

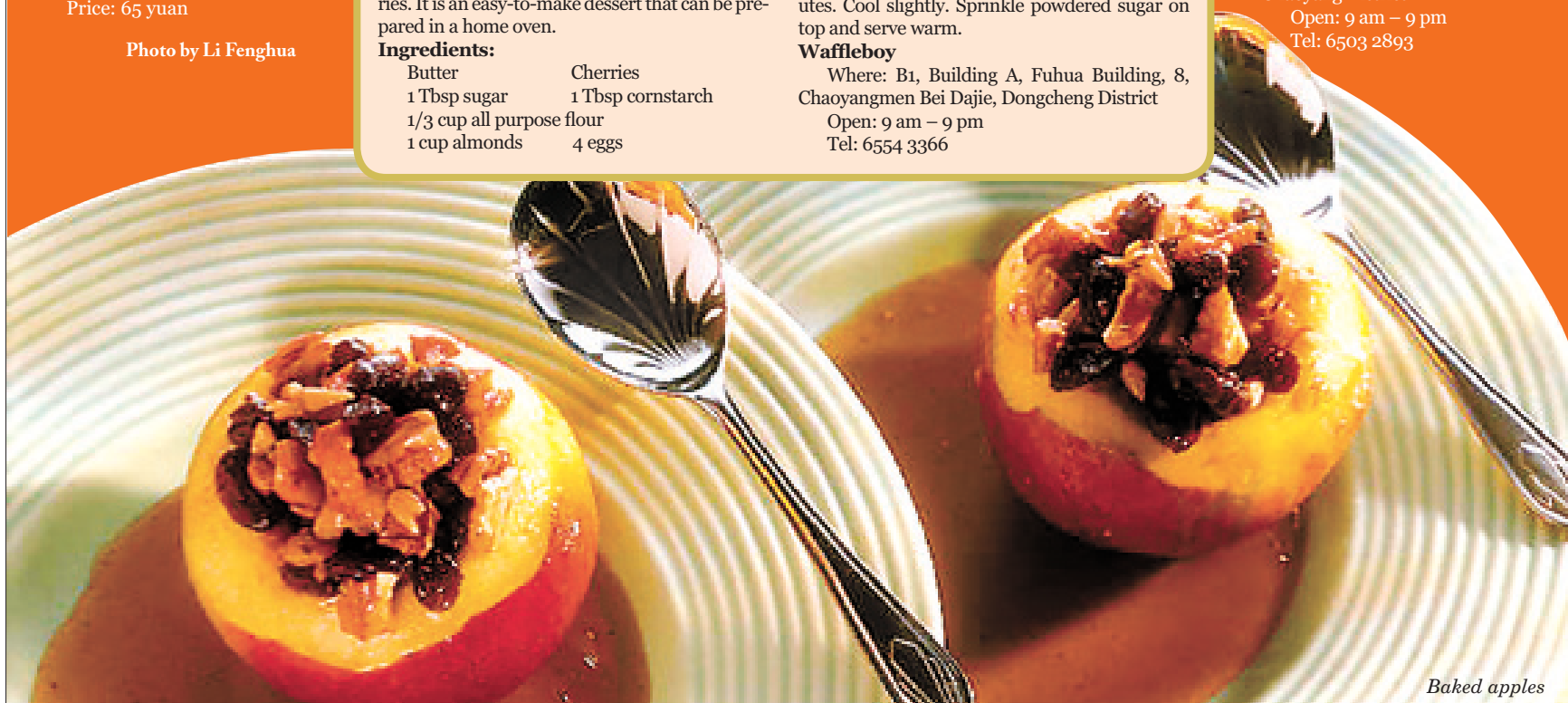
Preheat the oven to 190 C. Core the apples, leaving approximately 1/2 inch at the bottom. In a small bowl, combine the sugar, cinnamon, raisins and pecans. Stuff each apple with this mixture. Top with a dot of butter and wrap in foil. Place the wrapped apple into the oven and cook until the apple is done. Baking time varies by the apple's size and type, but usually averages 20-30 minutes. Poke the apple with a fork to test if it is done. Multiply by the number of people you wish to serve.

Grandma's Kitchen

Where: A11, Xiushui Nan Jie, Chaoyang District

Open: 9 am – 9 pm

Tel: 6503 2893



Baked apples

Dining

**Mushrooms**

This spring taste the robust flavors of exotic and versatile fungi. At Jewel, a season of tasty forest fresh mushrooms is presented in an array of innovative dishes such as Braised Snow Mushroom with Sliced Abalone and Sautéed Chicken Mushrooms with Pan-fried Duck Liver Escalope as well as pine, crepe, monkey head and button mushrooms for the entire month.

Where: Jewel, the Westin Beijing, 9B Jinrong Jie, Xicheng

When: 11:30 am – 10:30 pm

Cost: 750 yuan (all prices subject to a 15 percent service charge)

Tel: 6629 7820

**Wu Kejia and Gao Bo folk music joint show**

Where: New Get Luck Bar (Haoyun), A1 Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang

When: 9:30 pm, April 16

Admission: Free

Tel: 8448 3335

**Street voice**

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dong Mianhua Hutong, Jiaod-aokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng

When: 3 pm, April 12

Cost: 30 yuan (including a bottled beverage), 20 yuan (advance)

Tel: 13269227168

Flying Plan – reflector band concert

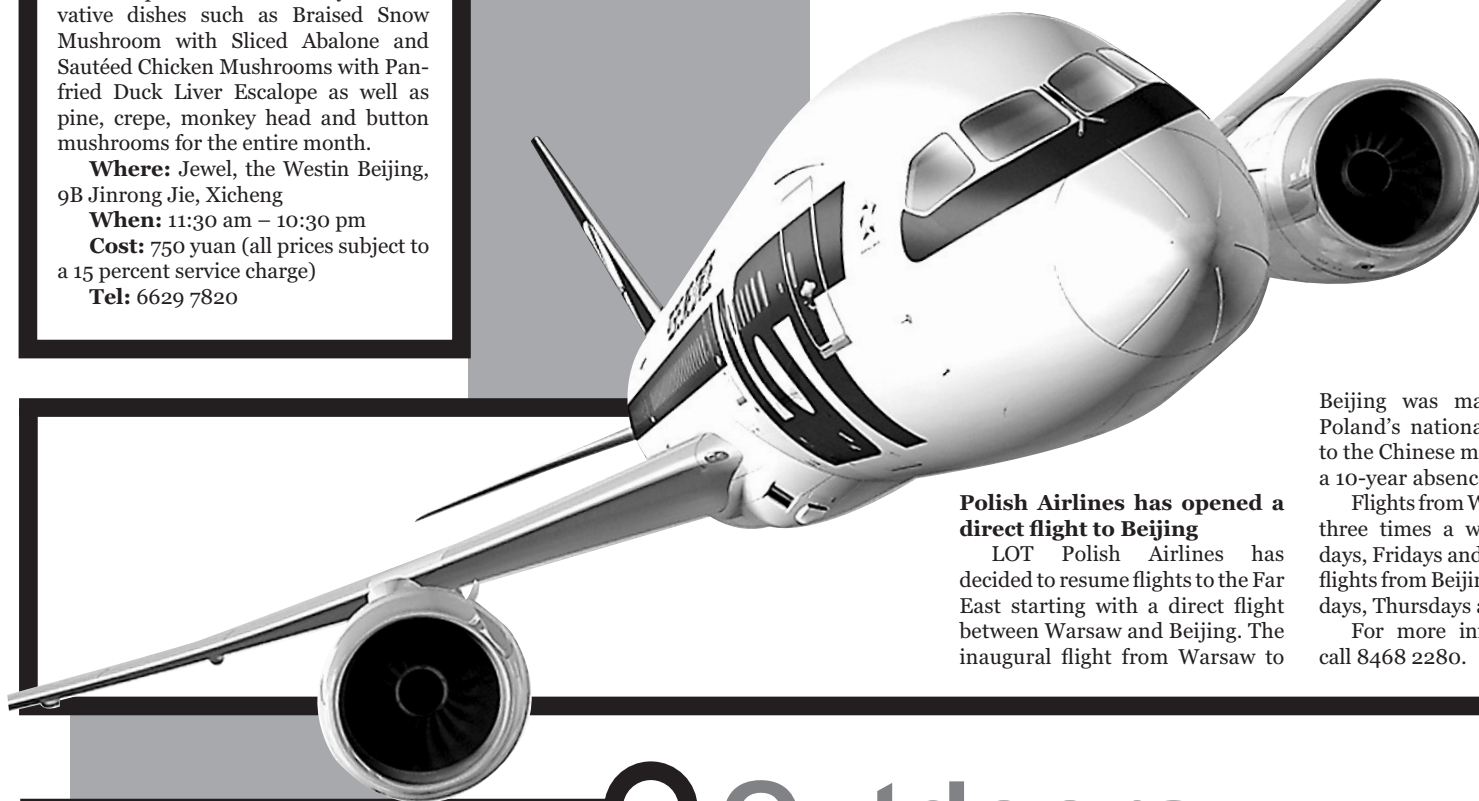
Where: Mao Live, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

When: 8:30 pm, April 12

Cost: 40 yuan

Tel: 6402 5080

Aviation

**Polish Airlines has opened a direct flight to Beijing**

LOT Polish Airlines has decided to resume flights to the Far East starting with a direct flight between Warsaw and Beijing. The inaugural flight from Warsaw to

Beijing was made on April 2. Poland's national carrier returns to the Chinese market after nearly a 10-year absence.

Flights from Warsaw will depart three times a week on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Return flights from Beijing will be on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

For more information please call 8468 2280.

Outdoors

Yaji Shan temple circuit

On this hike you will visit the three temples of Yaji Shan. The first temple is at the foot of the mountain and was originally built in the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644AD). This temple was destroyed by the Japanese army during the war, and since has been rebuilt.

There are two other temples at the top of the mountain – one built during the Tang Dynasty (618-907AD) and the other built during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911AD). Both of these temples had to be rebuilt after the war as well.

The Qing Dynasty temple has quite an interesting story. It was used by Qing royalty, and the funds for its construction were raised by an old lady who lived nearby. She also helped out in the construction of the temple. There is a shrine dedicated to her in the temple, as well as records of visits by Qing Emperors.

The temples of Ya Ji Shan are a popular religious attraction for people in the Pinggu district. It is quite common to see people burning incense, and sometimes it is possible to see a full religious ceremony.

Ya Ji Shan is named for its similarity to a hairstyle that was popular for young girls a long time ago.

If you see the mountain from the right angle and use a little imagination, you will be able to see the resemblance – think of the mountain as a head and the two temples at the top of the mountain as two cute pig-tails sticking out from either side.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: 8:30 am – 5 pm, April 12

Cost: 250 yuan, 150 yuan (children under 12)

Tel: 13910025516 (reservations are essential)

**Ancient city Xi'an**

Xian is 1,200 kilometers southwest of Beijing; 1,084 kilometers northwest of Shanghai. Xian was the capital of ancient China. The emperor Qin Shihuang establish the first imperial capital then in Chang'an. For centuries, the Chinese Empire was governed from this location, and Chang'an remained largely its political hub until the end of the Tang Dynasty, around 900 AD.

Located at the eastern end of the Silk Road, Xi'an is home to some of the most spectacular sights in China, including the UNESCO-listed mausoleum of Emperor Shihuang with its thousands of life-sized terracotta warriors and their horses. Xi'an's excellent museum is one of the best in China, with Tang Dynasty pottery figurines and other relics. The Muslim Quarter, the Great Mosque, and the spectacular City Walls are all great historical sites.

So no visit to Xi'an should be considered a complete tour of China without at least a stop here.

When: Take the soft-sleeper train to Xi'an on April 11 and fly back on April 13

Cost: 3,050 yuan

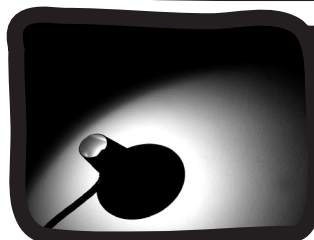
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

(By Li Jing)

Location location location

By Gan Tian

Putting everything in order will bring you better health – from your office space to your bathroom. *Beijing Today* examines your bedroom, bathroom and kitchen, and offers you several principles of “where”.



Night reading light

Wrong: overhead

Right: in your hands

Overhead bright lights at night delays the body's secretion of melatonin, which can ruin your night, since rising melatonin levels are an important cue for your body to prepare for sleep. Use a low-power light which can help your brain ease into a night mode, and place it a little higher than your hands.



Purse problems

Wrong: on the kitchen counter

Right: in a drawer or on a chair

You want to wash your hands immediately after you arrive home. Once in the kitchen, you take your handbag or purse off your shoulder, and leave it on the kitchen counter. This is dangerous.

More than 10,000 bacteria per square inch are living on the bottom of a woman's handbag! Yes, remember that your fancy handbag sits in buses, taxis, restaurants even public washrooms.

Keep it away from the place where food is stored.

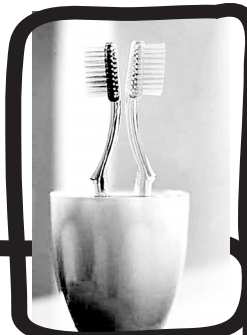


Underwear

Wrong: in a drawer or closet with sweaters

Right: in a separate drawer or closet

Some like to just toss their undies into a drawer. Some like to roll them up and place them side by side. Some like to store them according to type – boxer, brief, and so on. Some like to arrange them by color. Whatever. Never place your underwear in the same drawer with sweaters. The fuzzy woolen fibers will stick to your underwear making you scratch all day.



Toothbrush terror

Wrong: on the bathroom sink

Right: behind closed doors, in the medicine cabinet, or in a cupboard

“There are 3.2 million microbes per square inch in the average toilet bowl,” the germ expert Chuck Gerba, a professor of environmental microbiology at the University of Arizona said.

If you do not have any idea where to put the everyday mouthwash, take Gerba's advice and follow the above suggestion for toothbrush territory.



Shoes

Wrong: in the bedroom closet

Right: under an entryway bench or chair

You think you can safely put your clean shoes in the closet of your bedroom? Totally wrong. No matter how expensive your Air Force is, or whether your Dior shoes are new or not, keep them away from where you sleep.

Shoes carry along allergens and contaminants. Put them under an entryway bench or chair by the front door of your house.



Toilet tissue trouble

Wrong: in a place where you have to turn around to reach it

Right: close to your hands

If you have to turn around to retrieve it every time, your spine is in danger, because it is most easily injured when you twist your spine in this fashion. There are two ways to solve this problem: one, tote your toilet paper when you are ready to do your thing; two, attach the paper dispenser to the wall in front of you when seated.

Reminder stickers

Wrong: stuck on your post-it laden fridge

Right: anywhere but there

Many people like to stick yellow Post-It notes to the fridge, hoping they will remind them of things they should do – but how many times does it work?

Paddy Ekkekakis, PhD, an exercise psychologist at Iowa State University mentioned that a visual nudge can help – but only if you notice it; the fridge is a dead-end.

Remember: the boost you get from a reminder is usually short-term, so change the visuals location often.

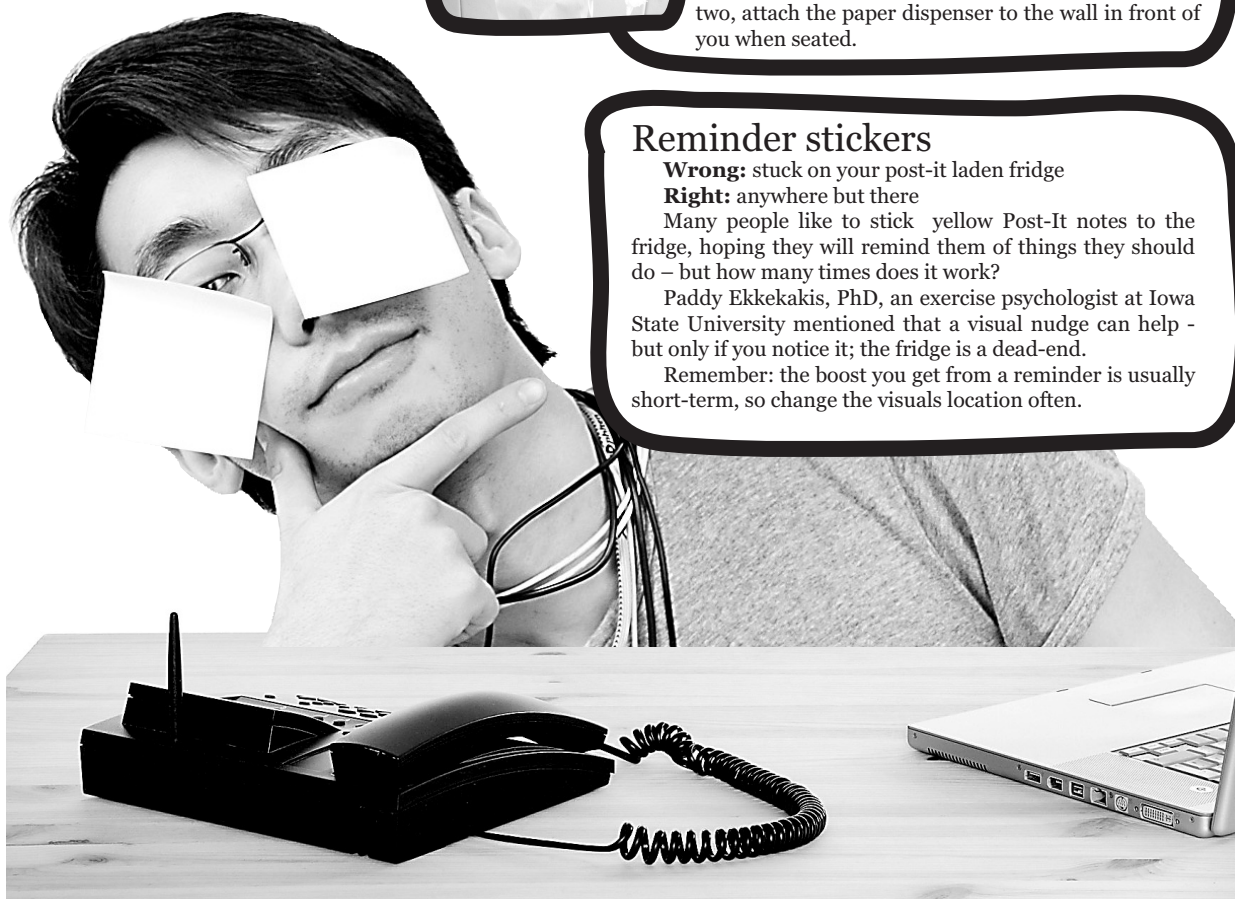
Laptops

Wrong: on a low table, on your knees, on your bed

Right: on a higher table, or on a laptop tray

If you love using your laptop on your bed, or placing it on your knees, be aware of your neck, because this positioning forces you to lower your head to see the screen which is hard on your neck and back.

The best solution is to buy a laptop tray if you do not have a higher table. If you want to use it on a plane, fold a blanket or put a pillow under your laptop to raise it up.



CFP Photos

Fengxian

a beautiful retreat from war



The origin of the Jialing River



Narrow mountain walkways in Tongtian River National Reserve



A waterfall in Zibai Mountain Reserve

The Children of Huangshi began screening last week. The movie tells a story set during World War II in China as a British journalist helps 60 Chinese orphans escape from the war by following the ancient Silk Road.

Fengxian, a county located in the city of Baoji, Shaanxi Province, is where the real story took place in the 1940s. George Alwin Hogg, the British journalist,

Tiantai Mountain and the origin of Jialing River

Tiantai Mountain is a national reserve located south of Baoji City and west of Huangniupu Town in Fengxian. Tiantai Mountain is part of the Qinling Mountain range, which runs 1,600 kilometers east to west through the center of the country.

Tianzhu, the highest peak of Tiantai Mountain, is 2,198 meters above sea level. As much as 90 percent of the mountain is covered in dense forest.

The Jialing River source is a key area of the Tiantai Mountain reserve. It is where the Jialing River, a main branch of the Yangtze River, begins.

The reserve features flourishing foliage, steep mountains and many waterfalls. Highlights include the Jialing River waterfall, a platform for viewing sunrises and the remains of a battlefield where armies of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) fought against the Jin (1115-1234).

In spring time, the reserve is full of flowers and green plants. In summer, the temperature is low and the atmosphere is cool. It is a great time to escape from hot weather.

There is a holiday village in the reserve that is popular with tourists during summer. Buses provide direct service to the reserve.

Tiantai Mountain Reserve admission: 21 yuan
Jialing River origin Reserve admission: 40 yuan
Travel cost:
Whole journey, 65 yuan per person
Half journey, 35 yuan per person
One-kilometer journey, 10 yuan per person

Zibai Mountain Reserve

The reserve is to the south of Fengxian and covers about 83 square kilometers. The channels among Zibai Mountain, Xiongjia Mountain and Wuliang Mountain are the main bodies in the reserve. The forests on Zibai Mountain, the grasslands on its summit and its limestone caves are the reserve's highlights.

The air is very humid, and the percentage of plant coverage is high. The reserve is divided into three areas: Zibai Mountain, the limestone caves and Yanziping, a large area of grasslands.

and the orphans left the Shuangshipu Town in Fengxian to escape the flames of war.

Fengxian has a 6,000-year-old history. It is located in southwestern Shaanxi Province and connects with Gansu Province. It is also the gateway to Sichuan Province. Fengxian has been a key strategic point since ancient times.

Zibai Mountain is the highest mountain in Fengxian. It is more than 2,500 meters above sea level and rages 500 kilometers.

The many dolines in the mountain is a big attraction. A doline, also called a sink or sinkhole, is a closed depression draining underground in karst areas. It can be cylindrical, conical, bowl or dish-shaped. The diameter ranges from a few to hundreds of meters.

Dolines are on top of the mountain. The biggest ones may be kilometers across. The depths range from dozens of meters to hundreds. Each has different flowers and plants, and more than 20 million square meters of the mountain is covered by the holes.

In limestone caves, stalactites, stalagmites and stelaes are everywhere. Waterfalls and deep pools can be found inside the caves.

Where: Nanxing Town in Fengxian.

Open: 9 am – 6 pm

Admission: 10 yuan

Tongtian River National Reserve

Tongtian River National Reserve is also located along Qinling Mountain. The average altitude is about 1,700 meters. Native vegetation, mountains, rocks, waterfalls and pools are the reserves highlights. It is home to 1,800 kinds of plants and 280 species of animals.

Tangzang Town, the park's former location, used to be an important food storehouse for the military in ancient times. It is said that Xuanzang, a famous monk during the Tang Dynasty (618-907), visited it on his quest to India to retrieve Buddhist sutras.

Where: Tangzang Town, Fengxian.

Open: 8 am – 6 pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Getting to Fengxian

Baoji, Shaanxi Province, is a convenient stopoff for visitors bound for Fengxian by train. Every major city has a route to Baoji. Take a train from Baoji to Fengxian. and charter a local car to see all of the area's hot spots.

(By Jackie Zhang)



Paths zigzag to the summit of Zibai Mountain.

Brazil

a paradise of flora and fauna

By He Jianwei

"The green on Brazil's flag shows exactly what visitors can expect from this country – nature," Marta Suplicy, Brazil's minister of tourism, said in a seminar on the country on March 25 at the Kerry Center.

With 8.5 million square kilometers of land, Brazil has 57 national Parks, Biosphere Reserves and Environmental Preservation Areas, of which eight are listed as World Natural Heritage Site by UNESCO. The places offer natural beauty like waterfalls, trails, forests and great rivers.



Fernando de Noronha is a spawning site for sea turtles.



Dive to observe fish and rocky formations in Bonito.

Boating and fishing Pantanal, Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul

Pantanal is the largest floodplain and the third largest environmental reserve on the planet. Divided into North and South, it demonstrates such great diversity that researchers have subdivided it into 11 specific areas, each with its own natural characteristics, activities and appropriate periods for visitation.

It is an ideal place for observing flora and fauna, bird watching and sport fishing – permitted only from March to October. "The dry season is from April to September, with sparse rainfall and a very pleasant temperature – warm days and cool nights – so it is the best time for observing the fauna," Suplicy said.

The minister highly recommended a boat tour in the Pantanal National Park. "It is the only way to experience the Pantanal and is the best option for those who enjoy fauna and flora watching," she said.

The boat leaves the port of Jofre with permission from IBAMA, the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Natural Renewable Resources, and is accompanied by a guide.

In the South part of the Pantanal, fishing on the Negro, Miranda, Vermelho, Sao Lourenco and Touromorto Rivers is a good choice. "These rivers bathe old and traditional farms," she said. The rivers empty into swamp.

Getting there: By Air: The Acurizal Farm (RPPN/Ecotropical Foundation) landing strip receives inbound flights. It is a one-hour flight plus 30 minutes by boat from the closest city Poconé, 102 kilometers from Cuiabá. By Highway: Take MT 060

from Cuiabá to Poconé, it is a 102-kilometer paved road. Continue along the Transpantaneira Highway for another 147 kilometers to Jofre Port on the Cuiabá River bank. By Water: Depart from Jofre Port and head for the Park, the only access is by boat, and it takes approximately 4 hours.

Tip: Insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat or cap, light clothing and waterproof boots are necessary. The park has no dining areas or vendors, so take light snacks, fruit and water for the trip. There is no lodging available inside the park, so you must exit on the same day.

Diving and trekking

Bonito, Mato Grosso do Sul

The city of Bonito is located on the southwestern corner of Mato Grosso do Sul and can be visited any time of the year.

The clear water, grottoes and waterfalls make Bonito a really special place. "Everything here seems to have been sculpted by hand. This is why those who visit this place end up adopting environmental preservation as a life philosophy," she said.

To visit Bonito, you will be constantly accompanied by certified local guides.

To avoid damaging the environment, the number of visitors is limited at each attraction, which ranges from grottoes and trails to dives in the clear, warm river water.

The Gruta Azul is the most recommended destination. This grotto is a geologic formation of limy rocks. Visitors can swim in a lake with clear blue water inside the grotto.

The second best activity is a walk along Formoso River to explore its natural caves. "After two kilometers along paths in the

forest, you can swim in the clear waters of the river and float down rapids to see the underwater flora and fauna and rocky formations," she said.

The third is the Anhumas abyss. The bottom of the cave is 72 kilometers below the surface. Visitors can dive to observe the rocky formations in the lake.

Getting there: By plane: daily flights take visitors to the Airport of Campo Grande, the state capital. In the airport, visitors can contact car rental agencies or charter a local flight. By bus or car: for visitors coming by car from Campo Grande, the 290-kilometer long BR-060 runs through the cities of Sidrolandia, Nioaque, Guia Lopes da Laguna and finally, to Bonito. By bus, the only connection is Viacao Cruzeiro do Sul, with daily departures from Campo Grande, at 6 am and at 3 pm.

Tip: Visitors need not bring a diving mask, snorkel and or wet suit. Equipment rental is included in ticket prices.

Dolphin and turtle observing

Fernando de Noronha, Pernambuco

With its 21 islands, Fernando de Noronha has a total area of 26 square kilometers. Its main island, which bears the same name, makes up more than half of that land.

Part of it is the Fernando de Noronha National Marine Park, an Area of Environmental Protection since 1988 and registered by UNESCO as a World Natural Heritage since 2001.

The object of the Park is to protect the fauna, especially the spinner dolphin and migratory birds. It is marked by the

presence of areas of mangroves, something extremely rare in oceanic islands.

Between March and July, the island's vegetation is more exuberant, but it is a period of heavy rains.

One of the most beautiful scenes in the island can be observed every day during sunrise, when groups of dolphins enter the bay.

Fernando de Noronha is a spawning site for the green turtle and feeding site for young hawksbill turtles. The National Center for the Conservation and Care of Sea Turtles – better known as the TAMAR/IBAMA Project – has protected female turtles, eggs and reproduction locations since 1984 and is constantly evaluating the turtle population.

The number of visitors is strictly controlled, and all visitors must pay an environmental preservation fee that is proportional to the duration of their stay.

Reservations must be made in advance. "Great care is taken to provide good infrastructure and inns full of charm, and at the same time preserve one of the most important ecological sanctuaries in the world," she said.

Getting there: By air: Daily flights connect the capital cities of Natal and Recife with Fernando de Noronha. Travel packages are organized by tourism agencies from all over Brazil.

Tip: Some diving agencies operate in the island and rent all kinds of diving equipment. The agencies occasionally offer special boats for transportation. The best option is to exchange foreign currency for Brazilian Reais before going to the island, since the majority of local inns, restaurants and souvenir stores do not accept credit cards.



Boat tours in Pantanal National Park are a great way to observe Brazilian flora and fauna.

Photos by Pbase.com

The Wedding Date

(2005)



Scene 1:

Interior plane cabin

(Kat sits in first class, absently scanning the safety card. A pretty woman across the aisle notices and smiles.)

Pretty woman: Your first trip?

(Kat realizes she's been reading the safety card. She laughs and puts it back in the seat pocket. As she often does, Kat feels compelled⁽¹⁾ to explain.)

Kat: Hardly. My family moved to England when I was fourteen. My step dad is a professor at University College, London. I'm going back for my sister's wedding ... and the best man's my ex. In case I chicken out⁽²⁾, I want to know where all the exits are.

Pretty woman: I don't believe in marriage. I believe in hot sex. Of course, that draws men to me like flies to shit.

(Kat doesn't know what to say, but then a hot guy walks up the aisle. Kat looks at the empty seat next to her and smiles at him. He returns the smile but sits next to the pretty woman.)

Hot guy: Hello, my sweet darling.

(He gives the pretty woman a very passionate kiss. The pretty woman rolls her eyes toward Kat.)

Pretty woman: What did I tell you?

Scene 2:

Interior Lanesborough Hotel

(Bunny, Kat and Nick emerge into a sea of Burberry, floppy hair, and unspoken judgments. Bunny turns to Nick and Kat, all business.)

Bunny: This is a marathon, not a sprint⁽³⁾. After the welcome cocktails, you've got the hen party⁽⁴⁾. Tomorrow, there's a picnic and the rehearsal dinner and since you've conveniently left no margin for jet lag – (squeezing Kat's cheek) I need you to hydrate, baby.

(Nick and Kat are stunned. Bunny hops away as Victor approaches. Kat throws her arms around her stepfather.)

Victor: Where did you find this guy?

Kat (smiling appreciatively): The Yellow Pages.

Bunny: Victor and I would especially like to thank our out-of-town guests for coming to celebrate with us as we welcome Edward and the Fletcher-Wootens into our family.

Bunny: It is funny. We always thought we would marry off Kat first. We came close once, but that crashed and burned.

(Nervous laughter from the crowd. Kat smiles through the pain. Jeffrey winces sympathetically. His mind working, he spots a piano nearby.)

Movie of the Week

Although the film does not reflect what it wants to say perfectly, it is still a delightful, cheesy comedy for a weekend. And there are many of the right ingredients here ... a likable cast, plot potential, a dreamy English countryside setting and a nice ending for comedy fans.

Synopsis

The Wedding Date centers around Kat Ellis (Messing), who returns to her parents' London home for her sister's wedding. Afraid of confronting her ex-fiancé, who dumped her two years before, she hires a top-drawer male escort (Mulroney) to pose as her new boyfriend.

Scene 3:

Interior near the ladies room –

lanesborough Hotel – Later

(Kat is sneaking towards the ladies room when Jeffrey comes out of the men's room. Their eyes meet. Both stop dead. Neither can find words or even a smile. Kat pretends that seeing him isn't a surprise and forces a silly grin.)

Kat: Thanks for, you know, with the piano It was really Hm. I have to pee.

(Kat slithers⁽⁵⁾ past Jeffrey into the ladies room. Jeffrey, a dashing Brit, is not a man who likes to wait, but wait he does. Kat emerges from the ladies room as if she hadn't seen him before.)

Kat: Why, Jeffrey. Hello.

Jeffrey: Hello, Katmandu.

(As Jeffrey kisses her on the cheek, Kat's eyes close and she takes in his smell. It's like coming home. She doesn't want it to, but something inside her stirs.)

TJ: Hey, asshole, since you dumped my cousin brutally and without cause, you won't mind if I steal her away? I have all kinds of interesting things to tell her.

TJ gives Jeffrey a dirty look and drags Kat away.)

Scene 4:

Interior Lanesborough Hotel – Later

(Nick stands with Kat at the bar. The bartender hands Kat a drink.)

Amy: Can I have that?

(Kat looks over and sees Amy. She puts her drink on the bar, but Amy can not quite reach it from her stool. Amy makes an exaggerated reaching gesture and whimpers. Nick takes note as Kat slides the drink closer. Amy sips it through the straw without picking it up.)

Amy: You know what I love about all this?

Kat: There is finally a reason for the whole world to revolve around you?

(As Amy gloats, Ed dances over. He is a refreshingly unaffected upper class Brit.)

Ed: How is the future Mrs?

(Amy kisses him on the lips.)

Amy: But I'm not taking your name, buster. I am a feminist⁽⁶⁾!

(Ed lifts Amy off the stool and spins her around. He does an awkward dance move and steps on her toe.)

(By Annie Wei)

Vocabulary

1 compelled: To be forced to do something

2 chicken out: Slang. To refrain from doing something because of fear or cowardice

3 sprint: To race or move at full speed for a short distance, as in running or rowing.

4 hen party: A party or gathering of women only.

5 slither: To go or walk with a sliding motion akin to a snake.

6 feminist: A person whose beliefs and behavior are based on feminism, the doctrine advocating social, political and all other rights of women equal to those of men.



Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Nice ladies don't throw their weight around

By Huang Daohen

English idioms and slang have always caused problems for Chinese language learners. However, I had never gotten the chance to see how embarrassing it actually could be until I attended a recent get-together with friends.

Jessie, 25, a former classmate of mine in college and now an office lady, was just back from her yearly vacation. A carefree and leisurely holiday is always a nasty source for adding weight which Jessie did. She piled on 20 pounds!

"I've now made up my mind to start dieting and keep my body slim," Jessie exclaimed. "I want to throw my weight around," she said.

We, of course, knew what she meant, but this really astounded Jeff, our American language teacher and in seconds he burst into laughter. His explanation, however, really shocked the people within earshot.

"If someone throws their weight around, it means they use their authority or strong personality to get what they want in the face of opposition," Jeff said, "You are always nice and I believe whole-heartedly you would never want to

annoy anybody in this fashion."

I could imagine how Jessie felt at that moment. She is a graduate student majoring in English!

It is true that all languages have idioms, but English seems to have more than its fair share. Jeff said it was common among foreign learners to inappropriately or incorrectly use idioms. There is really no easy way of figuring out the meaning of an idiom simply by looking at the individual words it contains.

"In fact, this is what can make idioms all the more confusing. Even a native speaker sometimes stumbles."

For example, he said, the learner may know the meaning of the common words "get" and "goat," but she or he will have little chance of guessing what the sentence, "You get my goat!" means. In fact, it means, you irritate me!

Another common English expression that puzzles the learner is "Keep your hat on!" It has nothing to do with a fashion statement or protecting your head from the sun. It simply means, "Do not get excited!" or "Stay calm!"

To use idioms correctly and appropriately needs vast reading and many years of experience with the language, Jeff said.

CFP Photo

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor:Zhu Shida

1. There are three sports events at the championships, including gymnastics, cycling and tennis.

Can you find what is wrong with this sentence? Grammatically, it seems all right. However, since you have enumerated the three sports events that are taking place, you must not use "including". When you use "including," it denotes what is enumerated as less than the total. It would be better to say, "There are three sports events at

the championships, including cycling and tennis."

2. It is lost in an age where most games feature CD-quality audio.

The problem with the sentence is the usage of "where." As an age is a concept of time, you will have to use "when" instead of "where." The right way to say it is, "It is lost in an age when most games feature CD-quality audios. The term, "in which" also works here.

3. Training sessions comprised of

speeches and demonstrations.

The problem with this sentence is the usage of the verb "comprise." "Comprise" is a transitive verb, meaning, to be made up of, to consist, include. So, when it is followed by "of", it is wrong. For instance, the US comprises 50 states. So, the right way to say this is, "Training sessions comprise speeches and demonstrations." Be prepared, the US thinking does not gel with this thinking. They love "of" here and who is to argue.

Native Speaker:Joe Edwards

1. There are three sports events at the championships, including gymnastics, cycling and tennis.

If you leave the above sentence as is, the readers will be curious as to what the other events are simply because you have used the word "including" which denotes there are more than just three events. So, you had better come up with some more events fast, my friend or the fans may want their money back! The word, "including" works if you do not mention all of the events at the meet, maybe just one or two. For example, "There are three sports events at the championships, including cycling and tennis." With this

information, the average sports fan will be satisfied as he downs another case of beer and falls face down into his huge bowl of nachos.

2. It is lost in an age where most games feature CD-quality audio.

Grammatically, this sentence is close to the target but, sorry, no cigar. Next! When you are discussing the element of time such as, "It is lost in an age," the word, "where" following the phrase, won't fill the bill. Drop the last two letters of where and add an "n" and you will hit the bull's eye. The sentence now reads, "It is lost in an age when most games feature CD-quality audio."

3. Training sessions comprised of speeches and demonstrations.

According to a Brit, in this sentence the very popular preposition, "of" is rearing its nasty little head when it should not. "Comprise" is a transitive verb and cannot be followed by the preposition, "of." The sentence should read, "Training sessions comprise speeches and demonstrations." Again, this is the British interpretation of this grammatical error. If you are from the US, you will not agree with this assessment and suggest heavily that the damned preposition stay right where it is. But, hey, in the end, what's a little preposition amongst friends. I feel a group hug coming on.

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.



Be merciful to the grass

By Derrick Sobodash

You can tell it is a slow week at the Chinglish desk when we once again turn to pictures of grass.

It is amazing how many ways sign makers in China have found to say the exact same thing. This time, the sign switches things up a little. The grass is no longer little and resting or luxurious, but slender.

But really, slender is hardly correct. The Chinese *yiyi fang cao* is difficult to translate without coming out stupid, but it would be close to something like "delicate, fragrant grass." The second half could be "Show mercy," and is more generally a polite request for readers to take pity on the grass.

The most odd-sounding part of this sign is the phrase "slender grass." An alternate translation would be "Show mercy to the delicate grass." The translator scores bonus marks for omitting the "please" - it has no place on a public notice.

However, if the writers mean business and really want readers to stay off the grass, then they should write "Stay off the grass." While English and Chinese readers may understand and chuckle at this cute phrasing, readers who speak minimal English and only as a third or fourth language may not immediately understand.

Friday, April 11

Exhibition

The Philosophy of Humor – Go Yayanagi Solo Exhibition

Where: Tokyo Gallery + BTAP, Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang



When: Daily 10:30 am – 5:30 pm, until April 27
Admission: Free
Tel: 8457 3245

Chen Xiaoxiong Contemporary Oil Painting Exhibition

Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, Huaweili 1-1E (North of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 9:30 am – 6 pm, until April 30
Admission: Free
Tel: 8779 0461, 8779 0458

Private View

“Private View” is a group exhibition showcasing a fascinating selection of photography and video works by five Chinese and one Italian artist.

Where: OffiCina, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10:30 am – 7:00 pm, until June 29
Admission: Free
Tel: 6436 1191

Drama

Hamlet

Who: British TNT Theater
Where: PKU Centennial Memorial Hall, 116 Zhongguancun Bei Dajie, Haidian

When: 7 pm, April 18-20
Admission: 20-150 yuan
Tel: 6275 8452

Movie

Le Cercle Rouge

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 5 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Sunday, April 13

Exhibition

The Chen Family – Group Exhibition

The exhibition gives an overall view of the work of the Chen sister and brothers.

Where: Room 1, Beijing Today Art Museum, Building 1, 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10 am – 5 pm, until April 29
Admission: Free
Tel: 5876 9392

Lin Tianmiao Solo Exhibition



Where: Room A, Long March Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 6 pm, until May 25
Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 7107, 6431 7799

Rao Songqing Solo Exhibition

Rao Songqing's landscapes depict the soft grays of the forest around Beijing in winter. The artist's paintings stem from the oldest and most noble of painting traditions in China: the landscape painting tradition.

Where: Yan Club Arts Center, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 11 am – 6 pm, until June 4
Admission: Free
Tel: 8457 3506

Movie

Agents Secrets

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
When: 3 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

Stage in May

Concert

Chris Botti Solo Concert

Who: Chris Botti
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, May 18
Admission: 80-980 yuan
Tel: 8528 5344, 6559 8306

May Flower Music Series III

Who: The China Film Symphony Orchestra of China Broadcasting Performing Arts Group

Where: Beijing Music Hall, 1 Bei Xinhuaajie, Xicheng
When: 7:30pm, May 2
Admission: 80-880 yuan
Tel: 6605 7006

Pinchas Zukerman

Asia Tour Beijing Concert

Who: Pinchas Zukerman
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, May 22
Admission: 100-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Ninegates Jazz Festival 2008

Who: Geraldine Laurent
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm, May 28
Admission: 20-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Hao Weiya

Special Concert

Who: Hao Weiya
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People

When: 7:30 pm, May 4
Admission: 50-280 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Jay Chou 2008 World Tour Beijing Concert

Who: Jay Chou
Where: Beijing Workers Gymnasium, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm, May 1
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

Sound of Angel

Who: Declan Galbraith
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng
When: 7 pm, May 24
Admission: 180-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6835 4455

Opera

Madame Butterfly

Who: Central Conservatory of Music
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, May 8-10
Admission: 80-880 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Paguita

Who: Paris Opera Ballet
Where: National Grand Theater Music Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People
When: 7:30 pm, May 16-18
Admission: 280-1,280 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By Li Jing)

Saturday, April 12

Exhibition

Lovely Person – Shen Jingdong Solo Exhibition

Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Daily 11 am - 6 pm, until May 19
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 4122, 13911166261



Color Party – Thoma Ryse Solo Exhibition



The art of Thoma Ryse is a brazenly welcoming song to color, the

joy of living, and the world seen in an abstract light.

Where: Imagine Gallery, 8 Art Studio, Feijiacun Dong Lu, Cuigezhuang, Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10:30 am – 5:30 pm, until June 6
Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 5747

Liu Xintao Solo Exhibition



Where: Bada Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 1 pm – 6:30 pm, until May 8
Admission: Free
Tel: 6433 5120

Movie

Quelques Jours en Septembre

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627